

DELL
Exciting
Adventure

LARAMIE

NO. 1125

AUG.-OCT.

10¢

A stage driver's body is found on the Sherman ranch
and Slim is accused of murder!



LEON HEVIL
STUDIO, INC.

LARAMIE



THE STAGE FRAME-UP



Mysterious doings around the Sherman swing station begin when a stagecoach roars through without its driver!



When the murdered driver is discovered in their barn, Slim and Jess find that all evidence points to their guilt!

THE PASSENGER



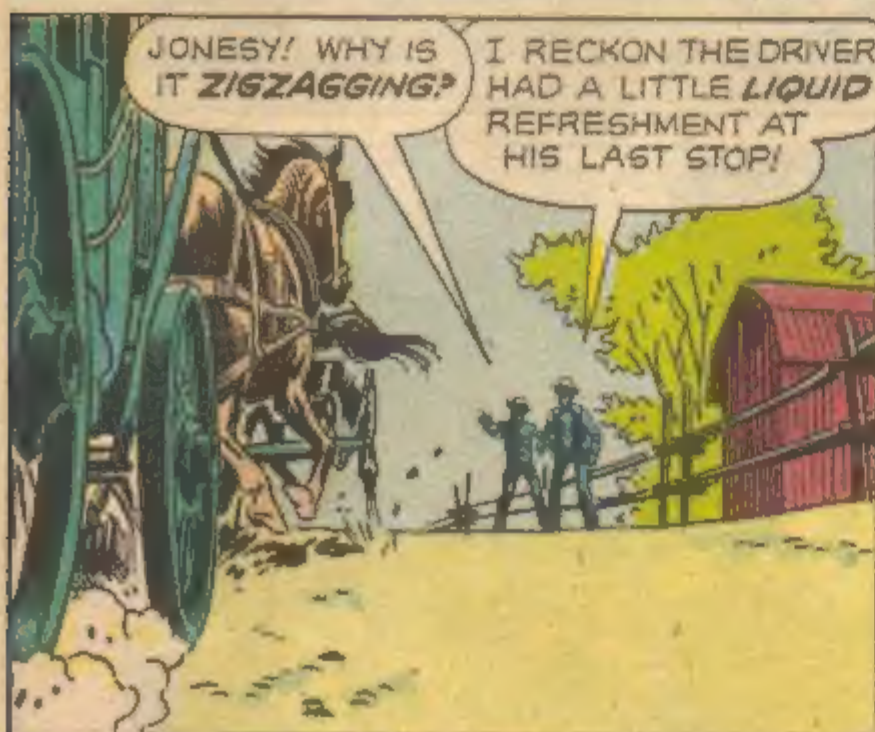
An innocent looking passenger on a stagecoach suddenly turns dangerous and makes a desperate escape from the law!



Before Slim and Jess can return him to the stage, they must rescue him from outlaws who have trapped him in a cave!

LARAMIE

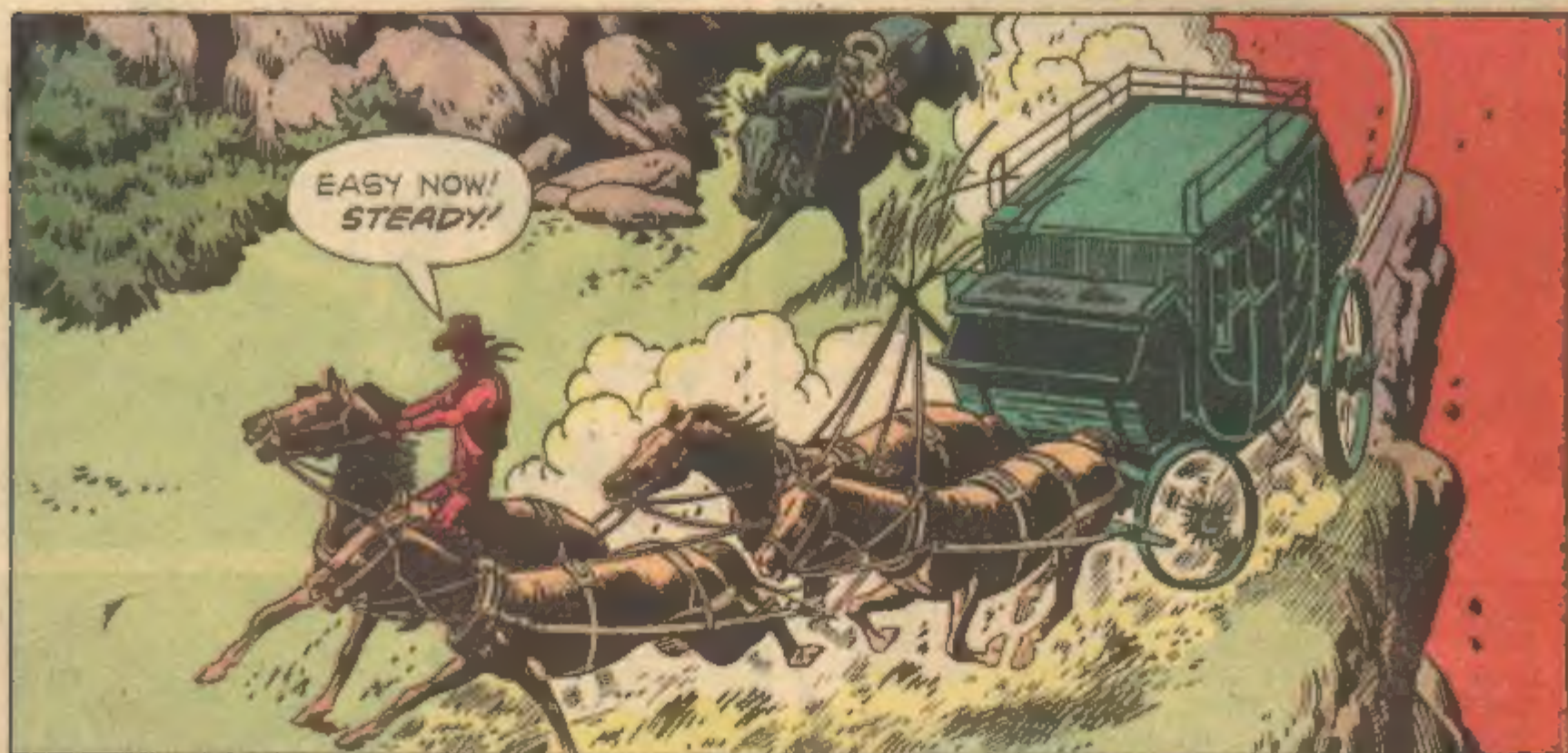
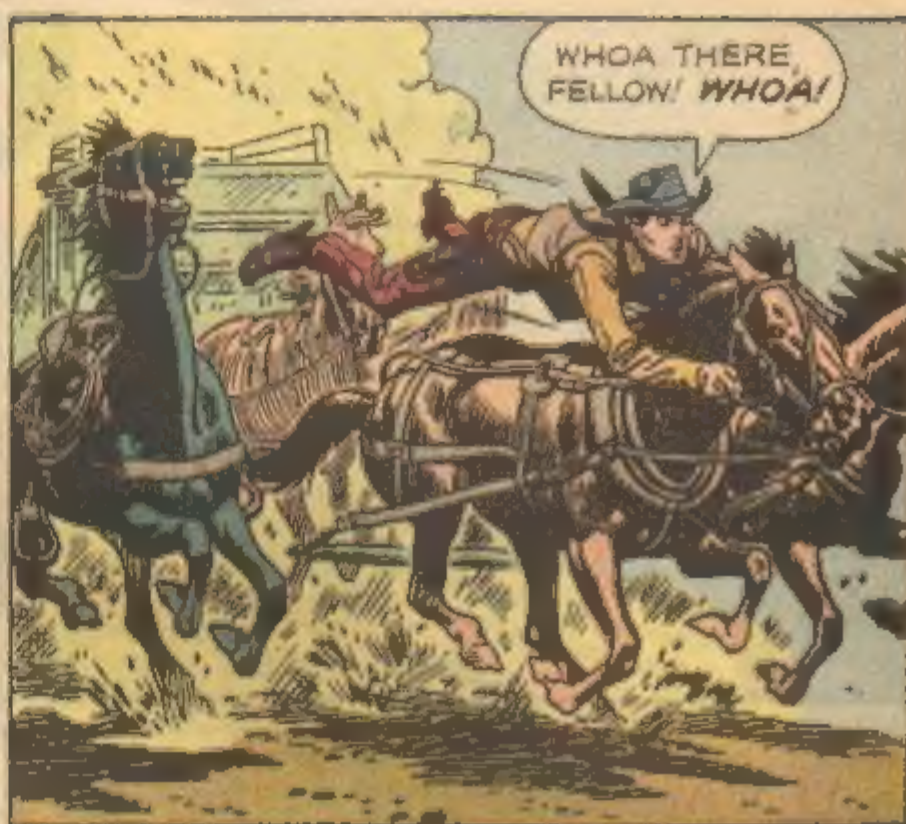
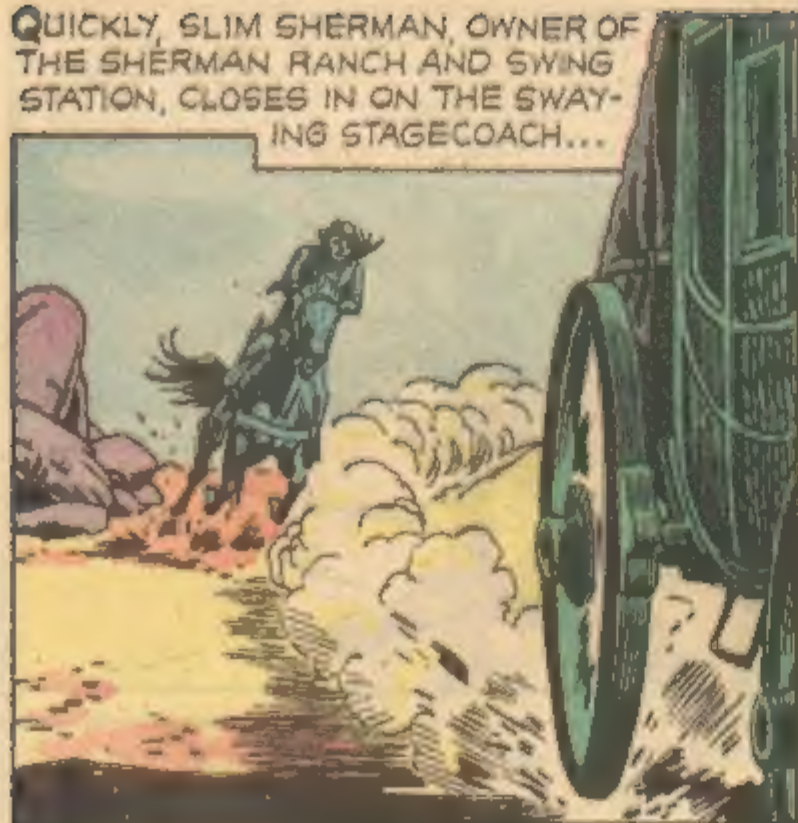
the STAGE FRAME-UP



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QUICKLY, SLIM SHERMAN, OWNER OF THE SHERMAN RANCH AND SWING STATION, CLOSES IN ON THE SWAYING STAGECOACH...



TURNING THE STAGE AROUND,
SLIM RETURNS TO THE STATION...

YOU SURE MUST BE HUNGRY
FOR BUSINESS, SLIM, IF YOU HAVE
TO GO OUT AND FETCH THE
GREAT CENTRAL'S STAGE!

THIS IS NOTHING TO
JOSH ABOUT, JESS!



MY, YOU'RE GETTING MORE SERIOUS
EVERY DAY! JUST BECAUSE YOU'VE
TAKEN OVER YOUR FATHER'S RANCH
AND OPERATE THIS STAGE
LINE SWING STATION IS NO
REASON TO GET SOMBER!

JESS, THE
DRIVER WAS
SHOT!

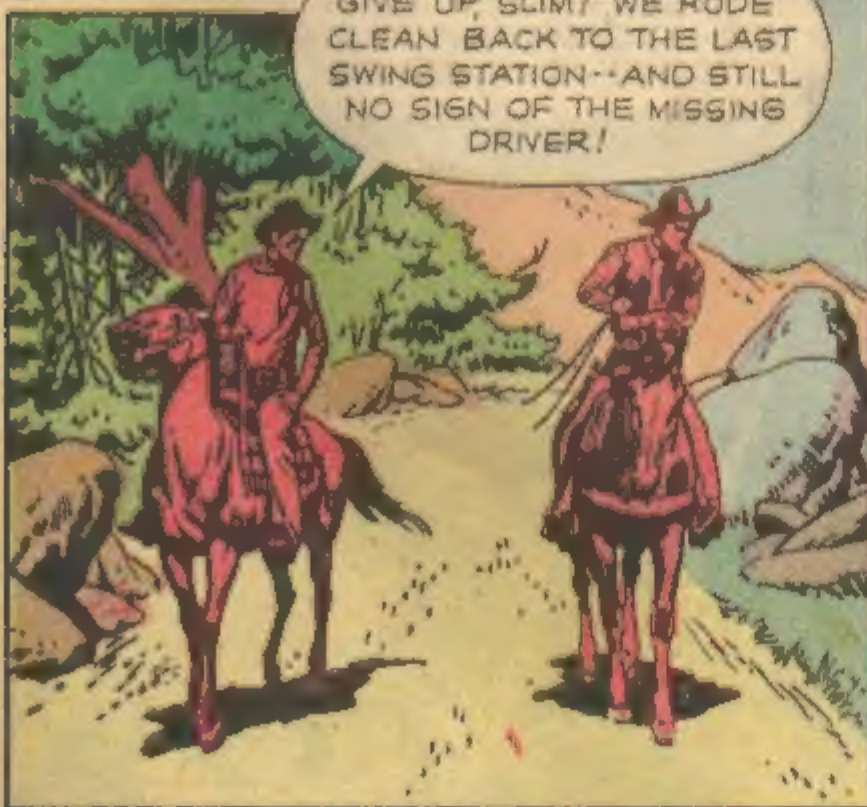


YOU SURE? THE BLOODSTAINS ON THE DRIVER'S
SEAT SAY SO! MOUNT UP! WE'LL
BACKTRACK THE STAGE! MAYBE
WE CAN FIND THE DRIVER!



BUT LATER...

GIVE UP, SLIM! WE RODE
CLEAN BACK TO THE LAST
SWING STATION--AND STILL
NO SIGN OF THE MISSING
DRIVER!



SEEMS HE JUST **DISAPPEARED**--ALONG
WITH THE STRONGBOX! WE'D BETTER TAKE
THE STAGE INTO LARAMIE AND
REPORT WHAT HAPPENED!



THAT NIGHT...

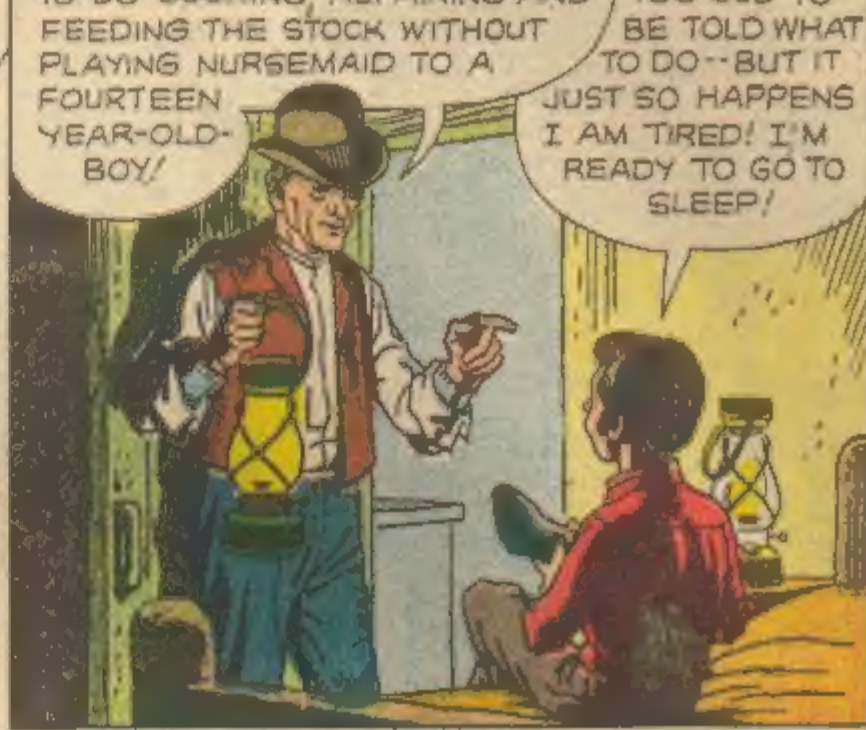
NO, ANDY, YOU *CAN'T* WAIT UP FOR SLIM AND JESS! DON'T YOU WANT TO GROW TALL?

WITH ALL THE SLEEP YOU MAKE ME GET, JONESY, I'LL END UP ABOUT SEVEN FEET HIGH!



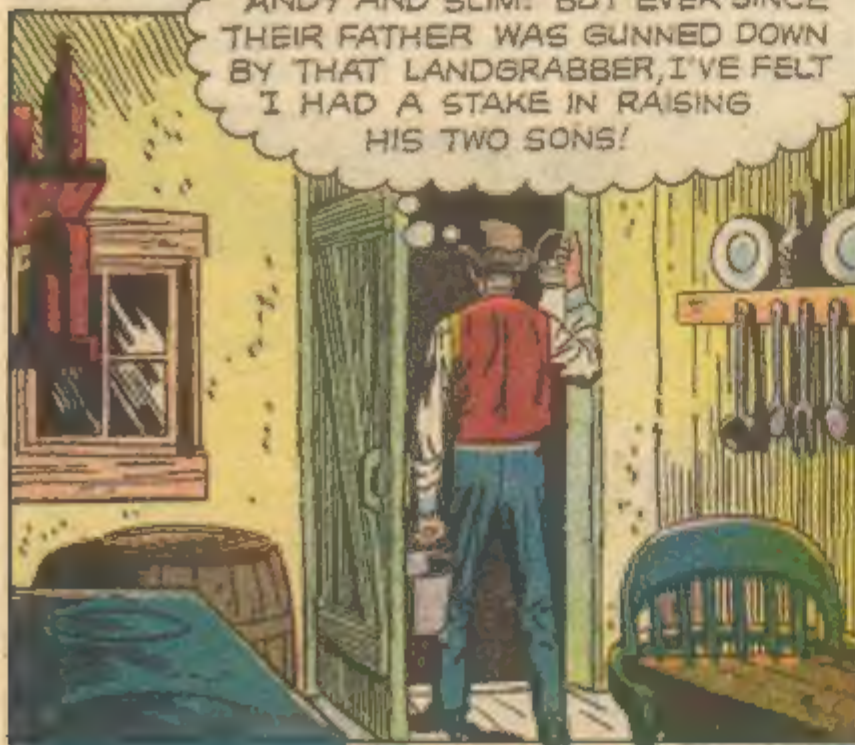
STOP ARGUING! I'VE ENOUGH TO DO COOKING, REPAIRING AND FEEDING THE STOCK WITHOUT PLAYING NURSEMAID TO A FOURTEEN YEAR-OLD-BOY!

EXACTLY! I'M TOO OLD TO BE TOLD WHAT TO DO--BUT IT JUST SO HAPPENS I AM TIRED! I'M READY TO GO TO SLEEP!



MINUTES LATER...

MAYBE I WORRY TOO MUCH ABOUT ANDY AND SLIM! BUT EVER SINCE THEIR FATHER WAS GUNNED DOWN BY THAT LANDGRABBER, I'VE FELT I HAD A STAKE IN RAISING HIS TWO SONS!



BUT IT'S LUCKY ANDY IS GETTING BIGGER BY THE MINUTE! I'M GETTING TOO OLD TO DO MUCH CARRYING AND FETCHING!



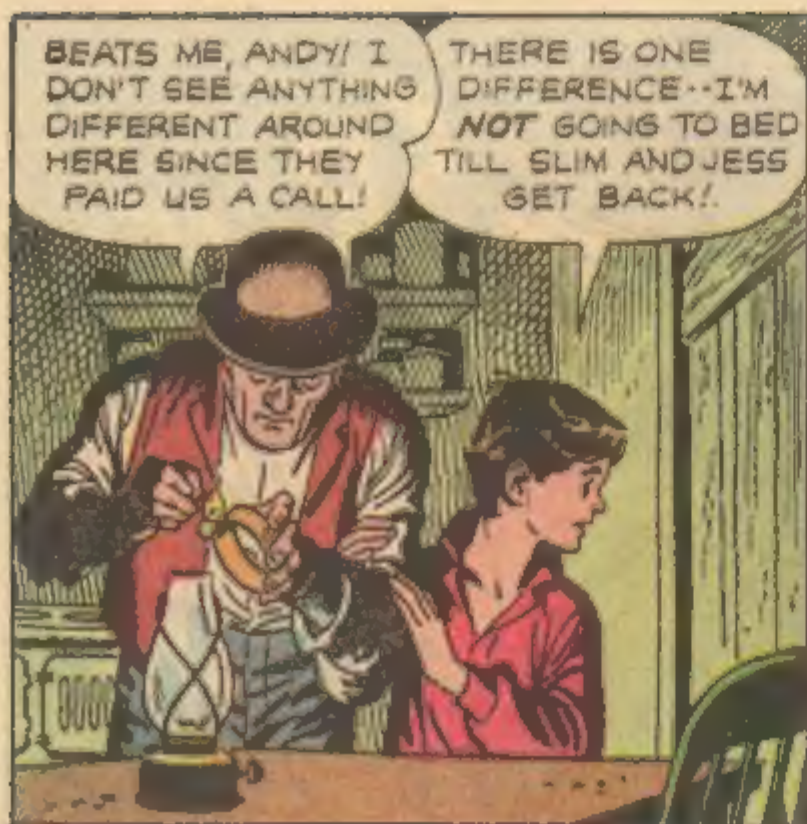
IF THESE BULLETS COME MUCH CLOSER, I'M NOT GOING TO GET MUCH *OLDER*!





MINUTES LATER...

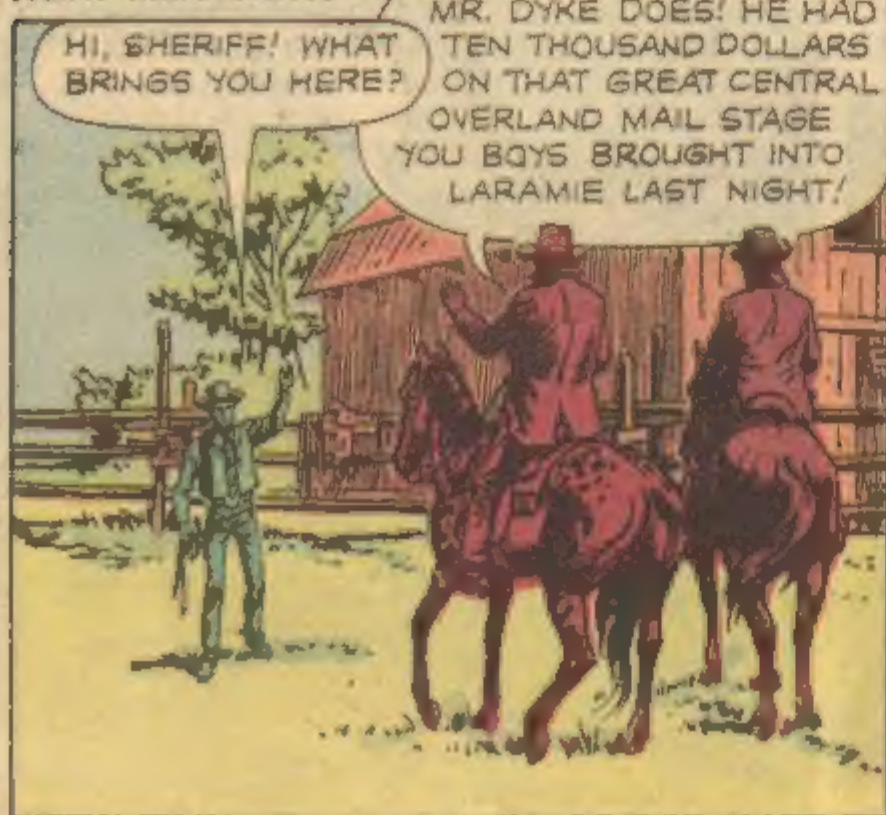


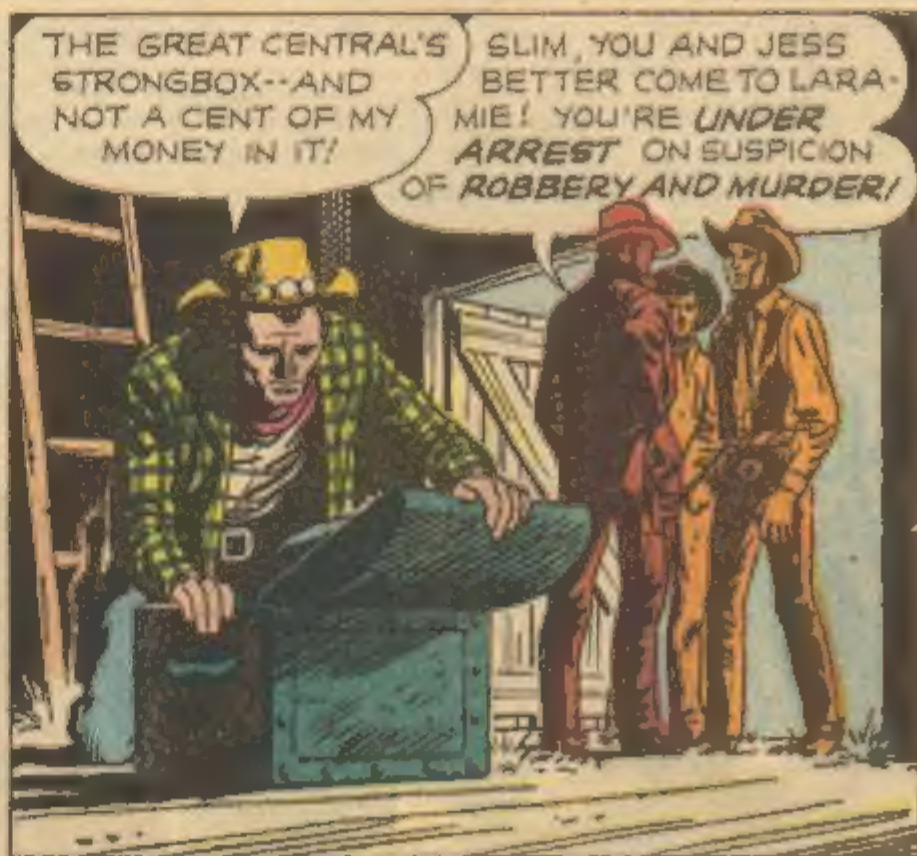
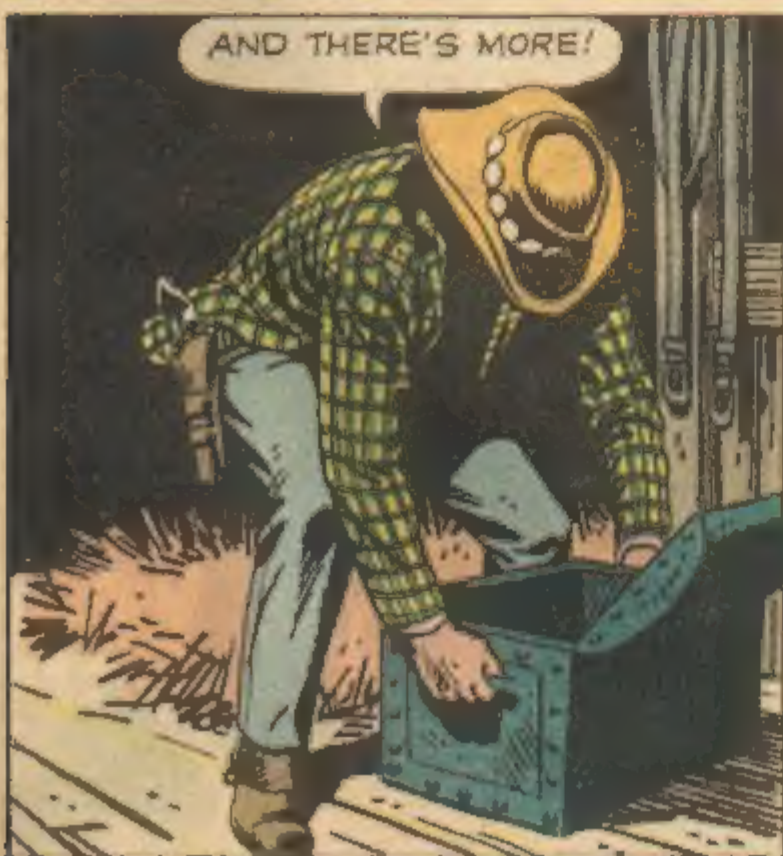
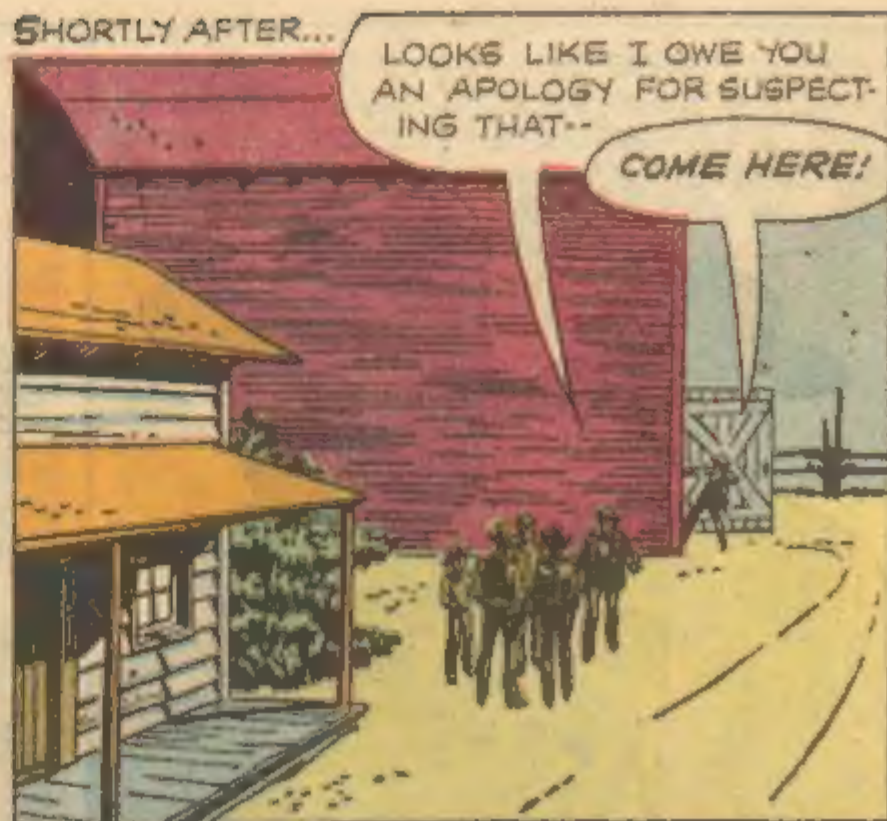


LATER, WHEN SLIM AND JESS RETURN, THEY LEARN WHAT HAPPENED...



NEXT MORNING...







BU-BUT IF WE DID SUCH A THING, WOULD WE LEAVE THE DRIVER AND STRONGBOX IN OUR OWN BARN?

MAYBE WE SOT HERE BEFORE YOU COULD GET RID OF THE EVIDENCE!



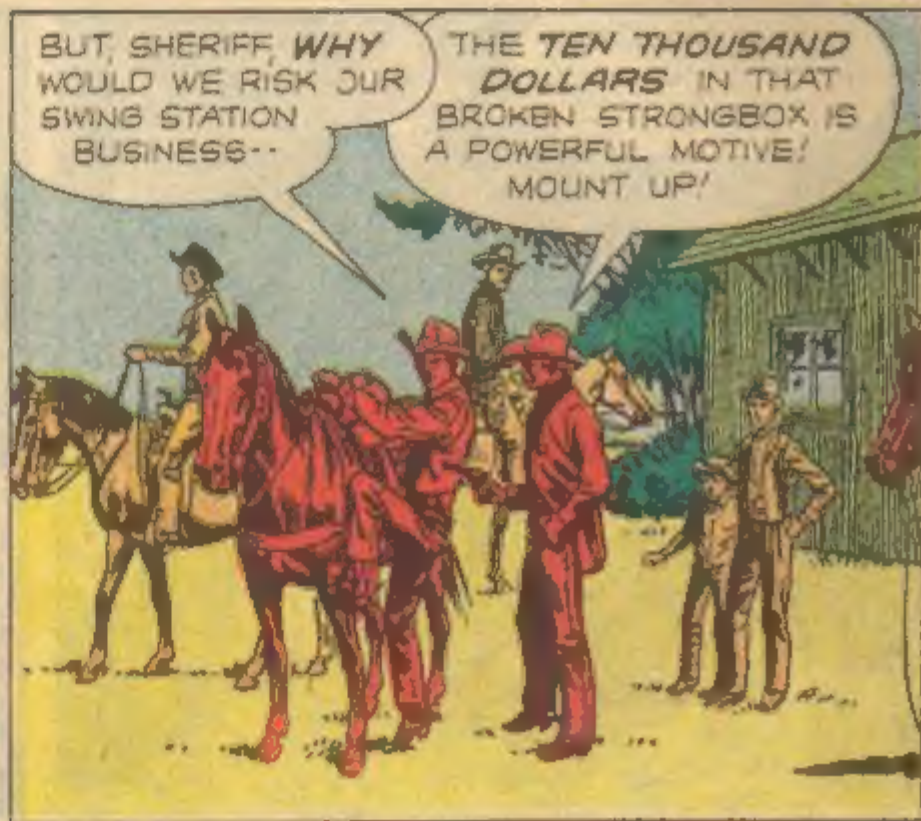
SHERIFF, LAST NIGHT JONES AND I HEARD SOME RIDERS POKING AROUND! WE DIDN'T KNOW *WHAT* THEY WERE UP TO, BUT THEY MUST HAVE *PLANTED* THAT EVIDENCE!

SORRY, BUT I'VE ONLY YOUR WORD TO GO ON, SON!



HERE! THESE TWO LANTERNS WERE SMASHED BY THEIR BULLETS!

OR THEY COULD HAVE *FALLEN*!



BUT, SHERIFF, *WHY* WOULD WE RISK OUR SWING STATION BUSINESS--

THE *TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS* IN THAT BROKEN STRONGBOX IS A POWERFUL MOTIVE! MOUNT UP!

LATER AT THE LARAMIE OFFICE OF THE GREAT CENTRAL OVERLAND MAIL...



THE WHOLE TOWN'S BUZZING ABOUT THE CHARGES AGAINST SLIM SHERMAN AND THAT DRIFTER HE TIED UP WITH, JESS HARPER! YOU NEED A *NEW* SWING STATION FOR YOUR STAGES AND I'D LIKE MY RANCH TO BE IT!

YOUR PLACE HEADS MY LIST, HAMILTON!



IT'S OBVIOUS YOU HAVE TO GET RID OF THOSE CROOKS' PLACE!

HOLD ON, HAMILTON! NOTHING HAS BEEN *PROVED* AGAINST US YET!

IF THE JUDGE THOUGHT THERE WAS A SURE FIRE CASE AGAINST US HE WOULDN'T HAVE LET US OUT ON BAIL! AND TILL WE'RE FOUND GUILTY, WE'VE THE RIGHT TO RUN THE SWING STATION

I'M AFRAID SLIM COULD HOLD ME TO OUR CONTRACT HAMILTON



ALL RIGHT I'LL WAIT BUT SEE IF MANY FOLKS TRUST THEIR VALUABLES ON A LINE THAT HRES **MURDERERS!**



MEANWHILE

LONESY LOOK WHAT I FOUND "HUCK GOSHEN'S GLOVES!"



IT'S HIS NAME IN THEM ANDY! THEY MUST HAVE DROPPED OFF WHILE HIS BODY WAS BEING LARRIED INTO OUR BARN

AND I FOUND **TRACKS** OF THE RIDERS WHO CAME LAST NIGHT



LOOK YOU'RE BUILT SO CLOSE TO THE GROUND AND? YOU SEE A LOT MORE THAN THE REST OF US AROUND HERE LET'S MOUNT UP AND FIND OUT **WHERE** THOSE HORSE CAME FROM



QUICKLY ANDY HARMAN AND LONESY FOLLOW THE TRAIL TO THE **AGENCY**





BEHIND HERE!

ZIP!



JONESY WHO--

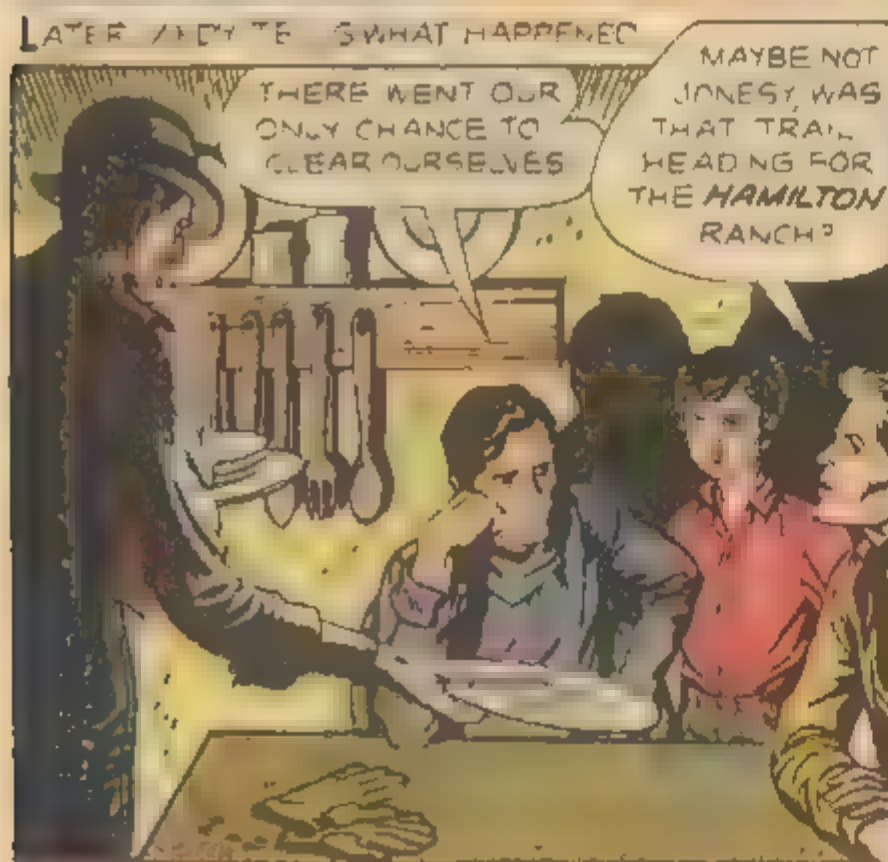
WHOEVER HE IS, ANDY, HE'S TOO DANG GOOD W TH THAT GUN! HEAD HOME!



LUCKY THE BOSS HAD ME RIDE OUT TO CHECK AND COVER UP THE TRAIL WE LEFT!



NOW THOSE SNOOPERS WILL NEVER LEARN WHERE THE TRAIL ENDS



LATER, THEY TALK ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED

THERE WENT OUR ONLY CHANCE TO CLEAR OURSELVES

MAYBE NOT JONESY WAS THAT TRAIL HEADING FOR THE HAMILTON RANCH?



WHY -YES! IT WAS HEADING THAT WAY. HOW D YOU GLESS SLM?

HE WANTS THE SWING STATION! HE'D BE THE ONE MOST LIKELY TO FRAME US!





AFTER THE HORDES ARE ROUNDED UP HAMILTON RETURNS TO HIS DESK



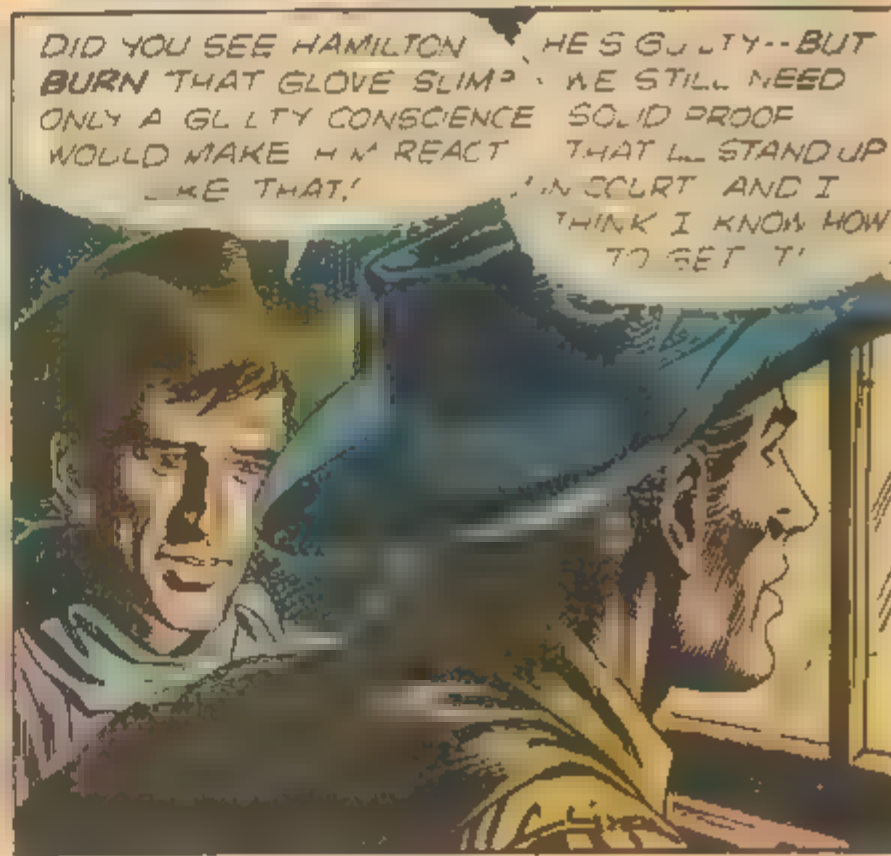
WHAT'S THAT GLOVE DOING THERE? I'M SURE IT *WASN'T* ON MY DESK BEFORE



CH-CHUCK GOSHEN IT BELONGED TO THE DEAD STAGE DRIVER!

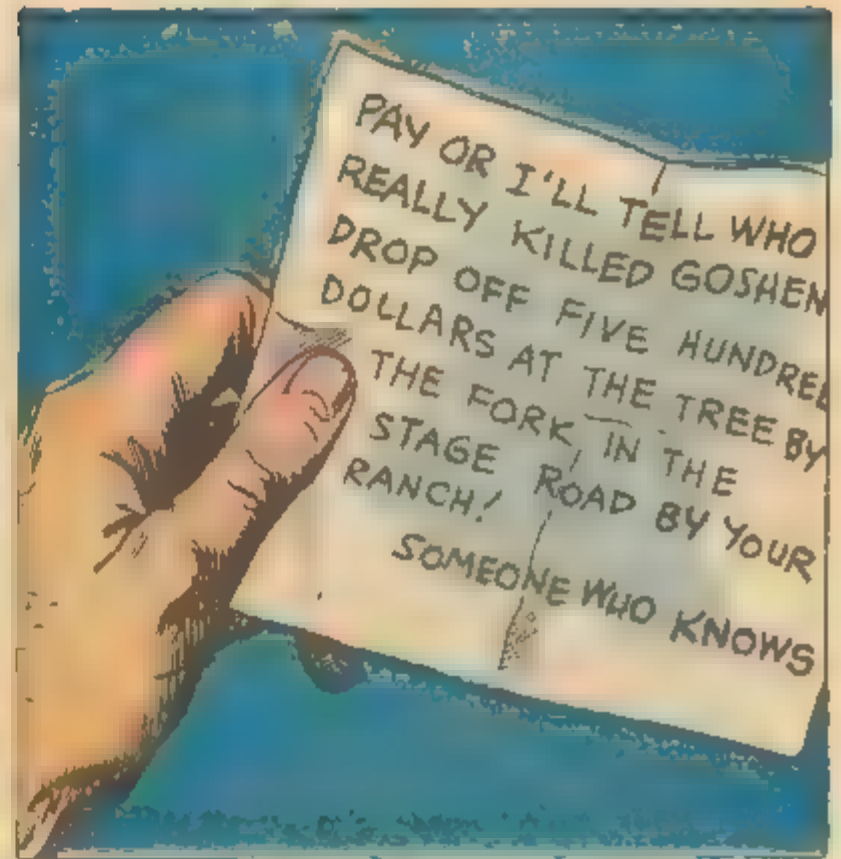
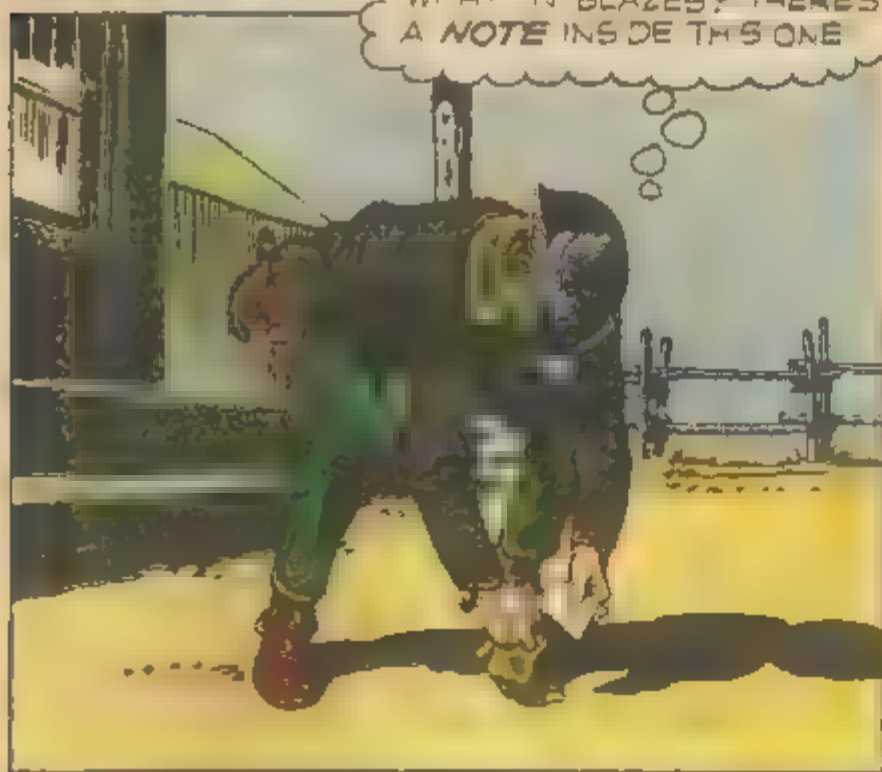


I'D BETTER GET RID OF THIS FAST,



DID YOU SEE HAMILTON HE'S GUILTY--BUT **BURN** THAT GLOVE SLIMP! WE STILL NEED ONLY A GUILTY CONSCIENCE SOLID PROOF WOULD MAKE HIM REACT THAT HE STAND UP LIKE THAT! IN COURT AND I THINK I KNOW HOW TO GET IT!

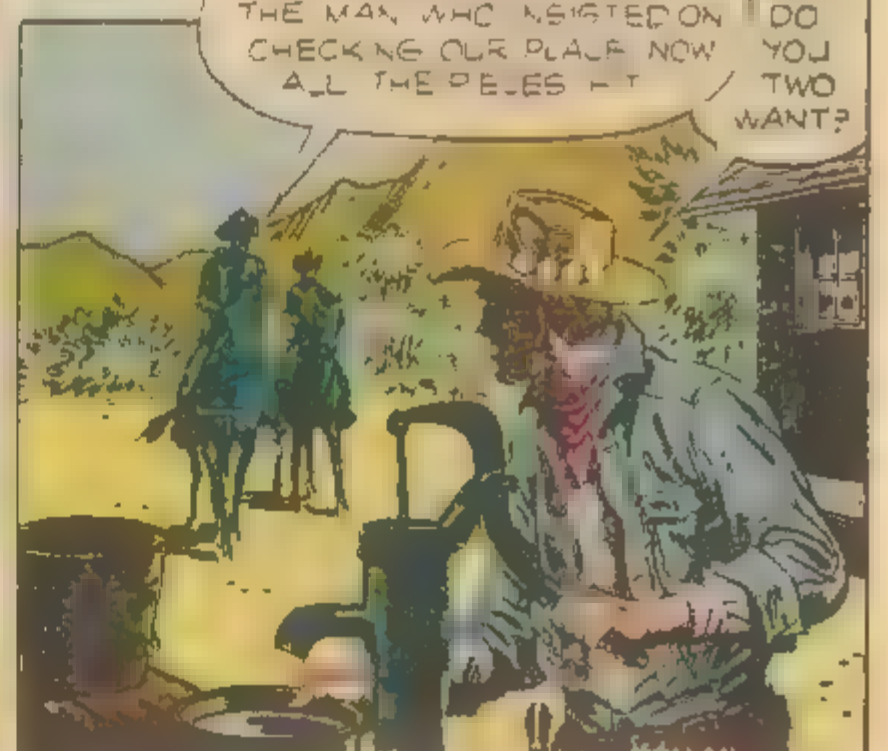
NEXT DAY HAMILTON FINDS ANOTHER GLOVE, AND AS HE GRABS IT UP

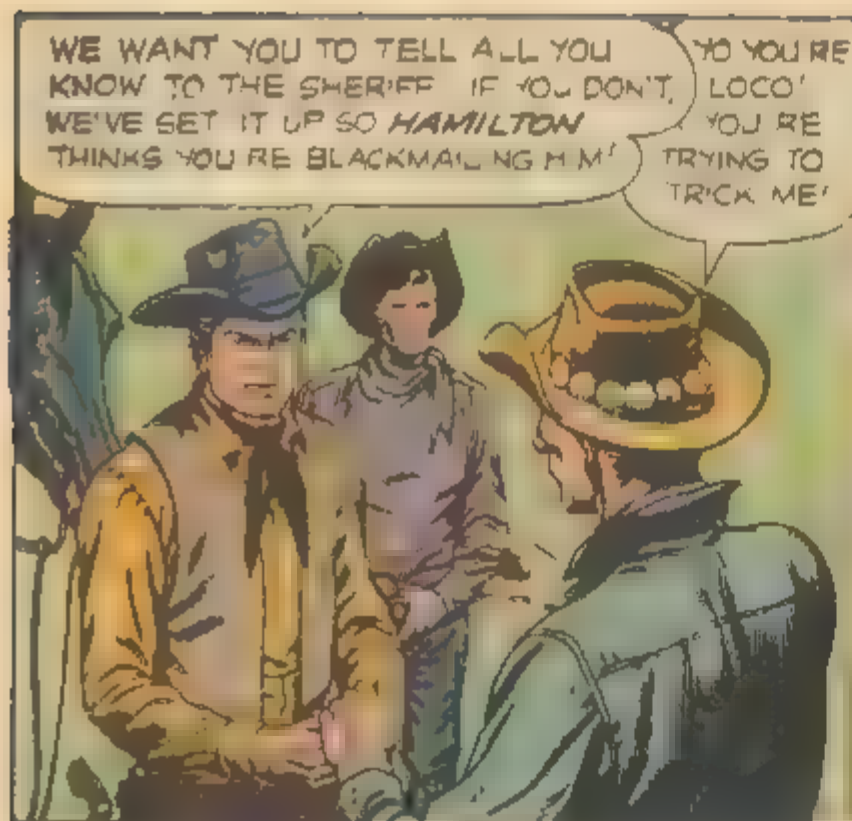


WHEN HAMILTON AND HIS FOUR MEN RACE OFF, THEY ARE FOLLOWED



MINUTES LATER





WE WANT YOU TO TELL ALL YOU KNOW TO THE SHERIFF. IF YOU DON'T, WE'VE SET IT UP SO HAMILTON THINKS YOU'RE BLACKMAILING HIM!

YO YOU'RE LOCO! YOU'RE TRYING TO TRICK ME!

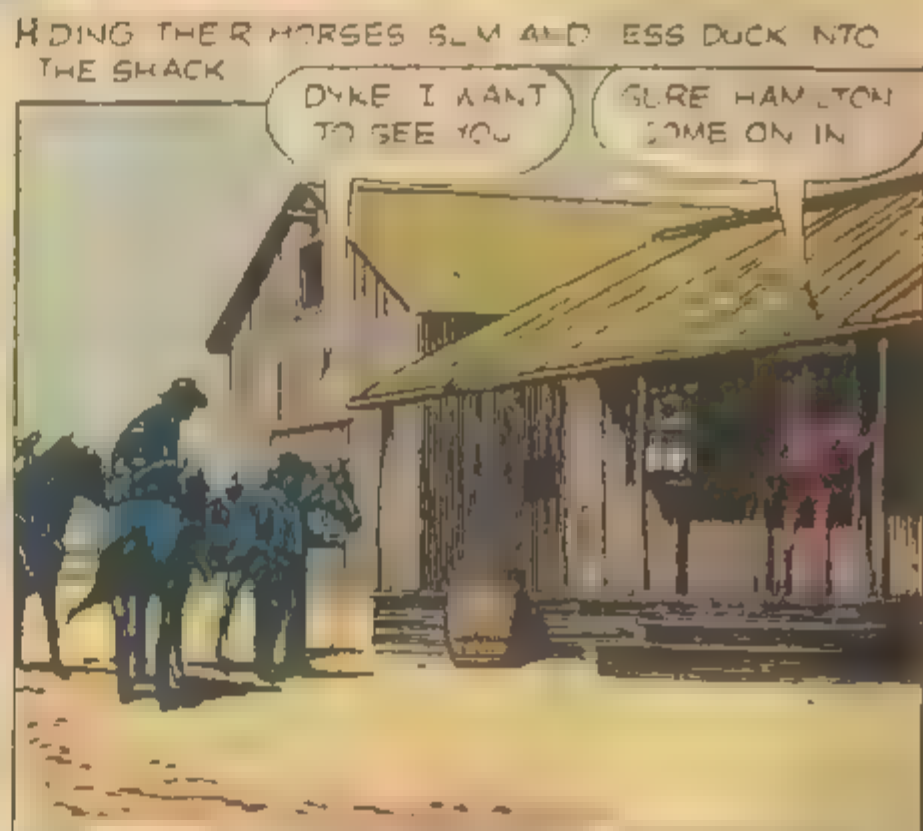


DO THOSE FOUR RIDERS WITH HAMILTON LOOK LIKE THEY'RE COMING TO PLAY GAMES?

AR-ARE THEY COMING FOR ME?



YES BUT ANYTHING ANYTHING YOU HELP US AND SAY I KNOW HAMILTON'S WELL HELP A KILLER! DON'T LET HIM GET ME!



HIDING THEIR HORSES SILENTLY AND DUCK INTO THE SHACK

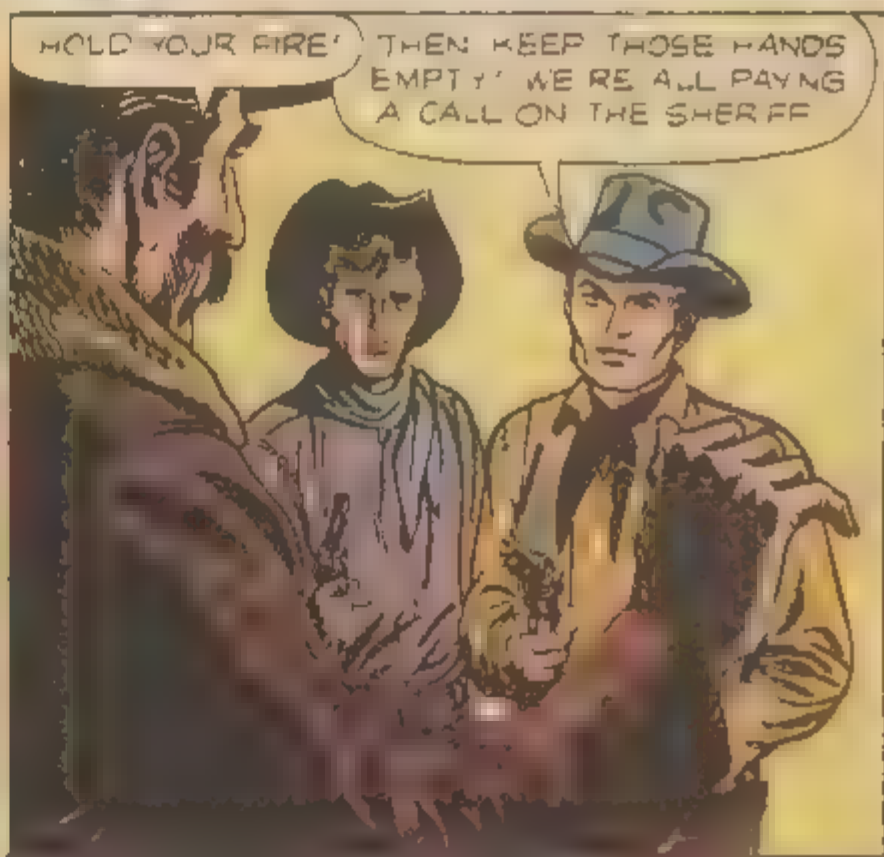
DYKE I WANT TO SEE YOU

SURE HAMILTON COME ON IN



I'LL JUST GET SOME COFFEE

THIS ISN'T A SODA CA.



LATER AT THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE .

HAMILTON GAVE ME TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS AND PAID ME TO PUT IT ON THAT STAGE! THEN HE TOLD ME TO HAVE YOU SHERIFF SEARCH THE SHERMAN PLACE! I FIGURED WE'D FIND THE STRONG-BOX, BUT I NEVER KNEW **MURDER** WAS PART OF THE DEAL!

HE'S LYING!

HERE'S THE RECEIPT FOR THE TEN THOUSAND. ASK AROUND I NEVER OWNED TEN THOUSAND OF ANYTHING—NOT EVEN BEANS!

THANKS DYKE! THIS CLEARS SAM AND JESS!



NEXT DAY

WELL, I'M GLAD TO SEE THE SHERMAN RANCH IS STILL IN BUSINESS!

AND WE'RE RIGHT GLAD TO SEE THIS STAGE IS CARRYING A DRIVER!

LARAMIE

the PASSENGER



JONESY DID YOU EVER SEE A STAGE WITH TS SHADES ALL DOWN BEFORE?

NOPE, ANDY! MAKES YOU WONDER WHO IS HIDING BEHIND THOSE SHADES!

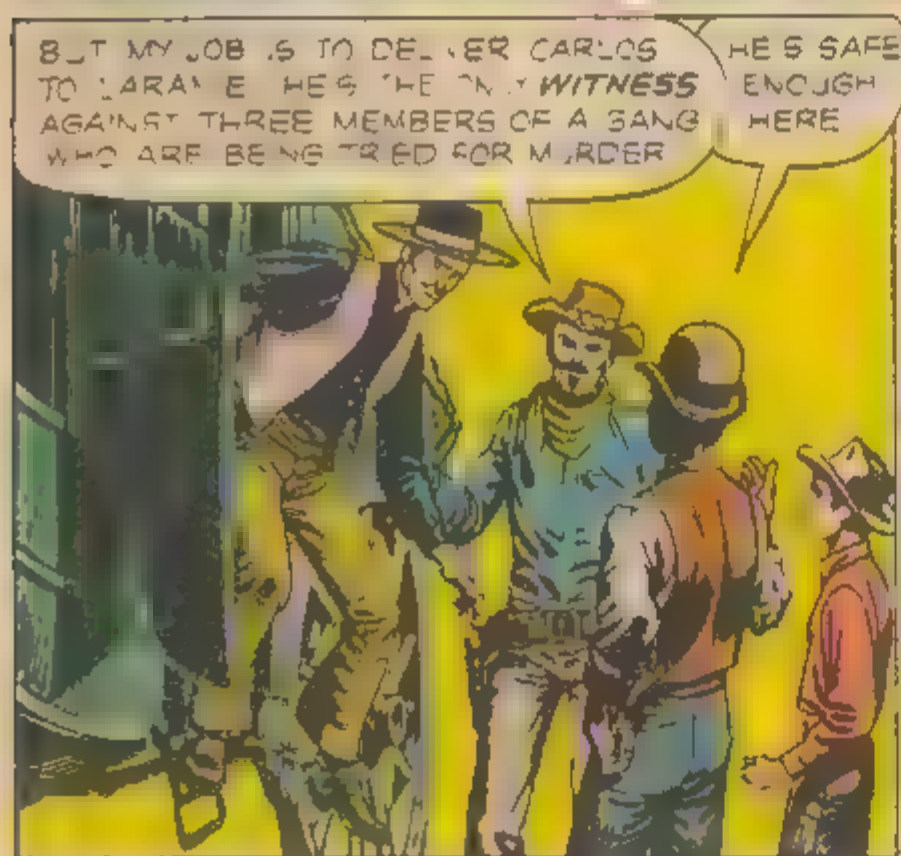


WE'LL SOON KNOW!



YOU DON'T NEED A GUN WHEN YOU LIGHT AT THE SHERMAN SWING STATION DEPUTY!

I HOPE I DON'T NEED ONE

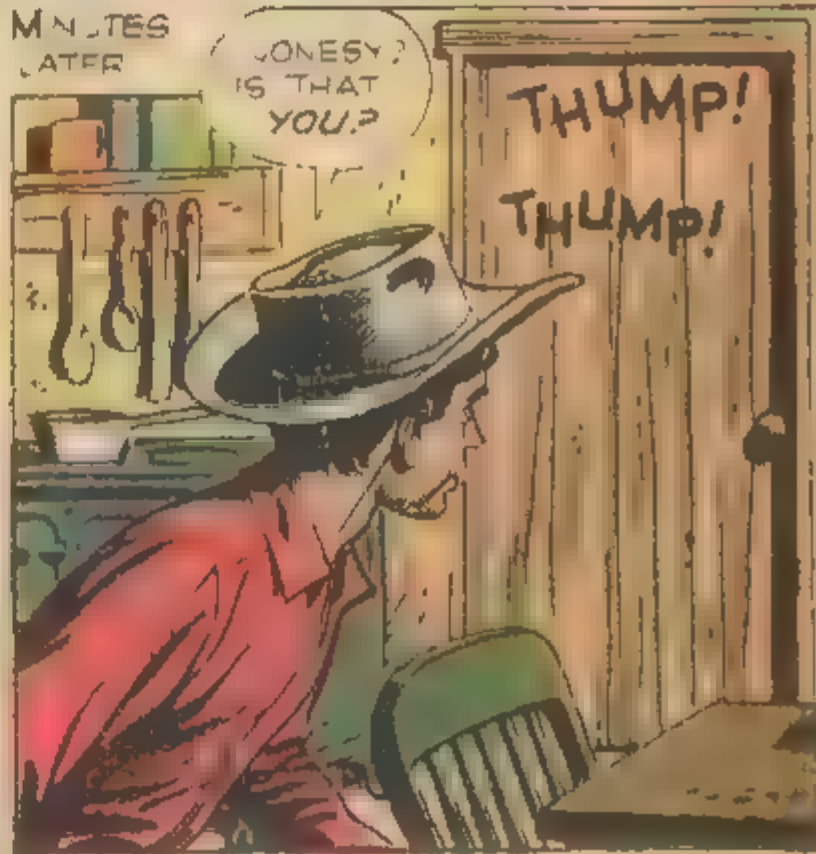
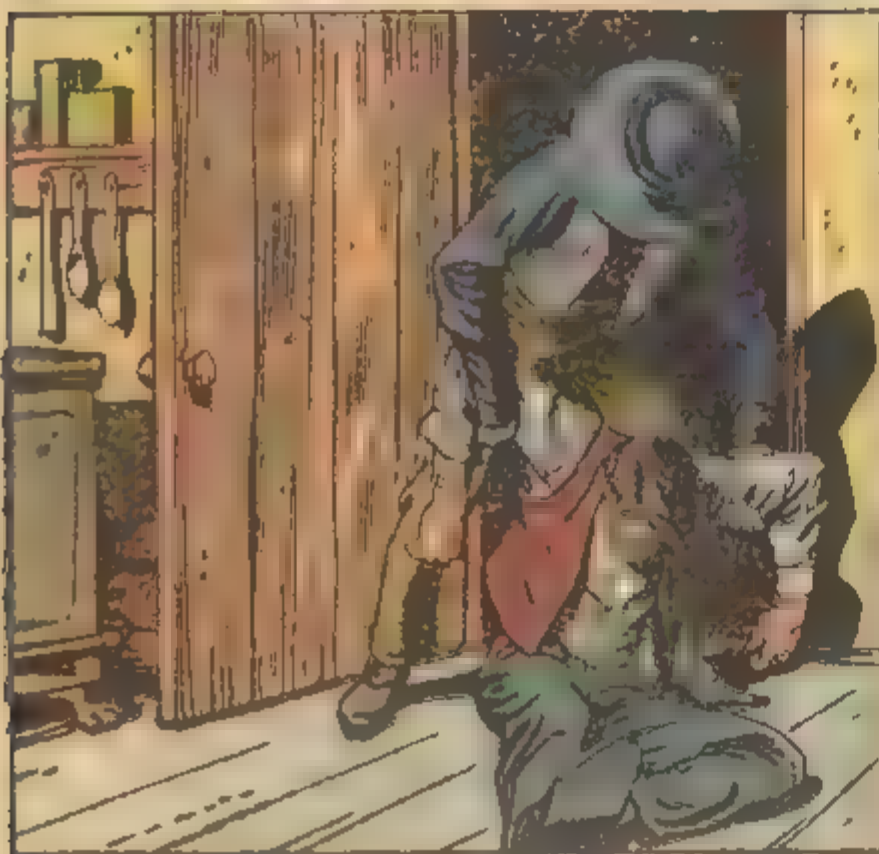
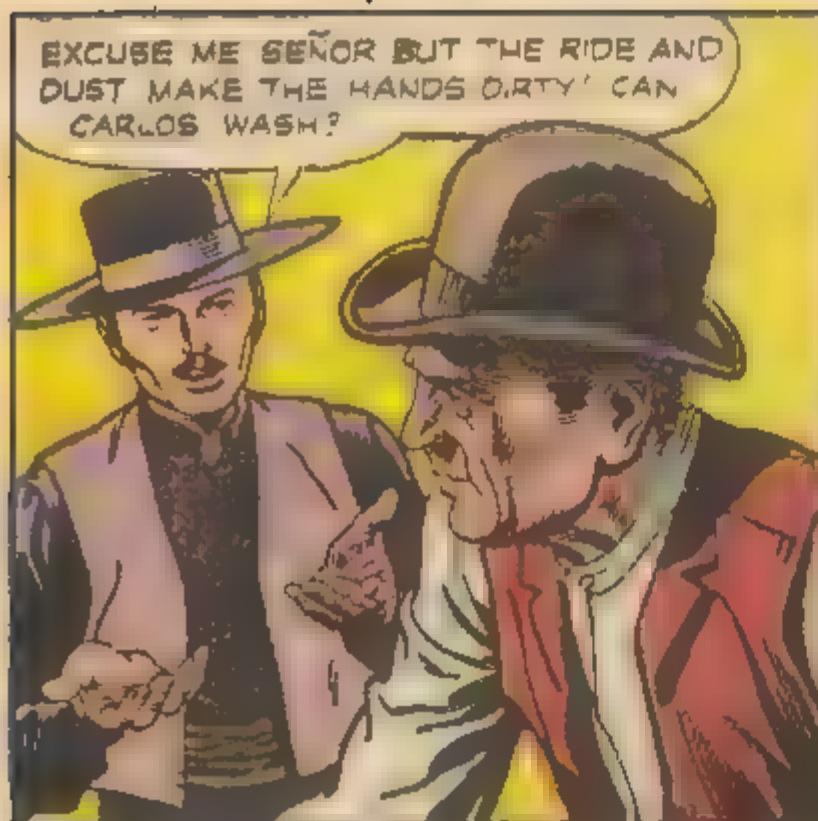


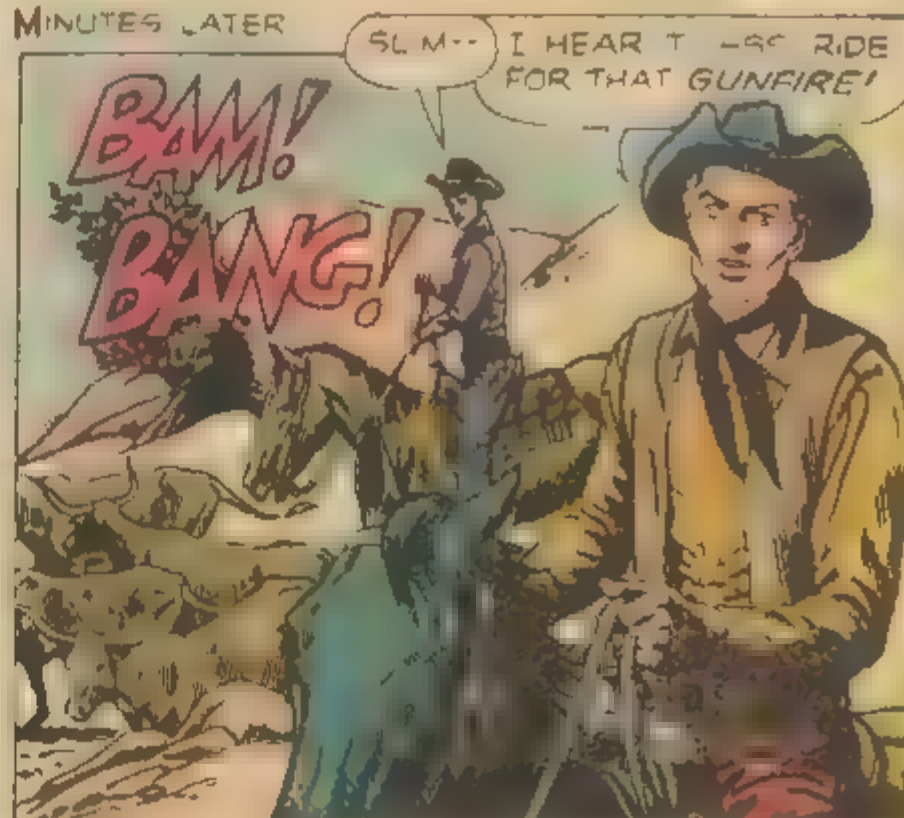
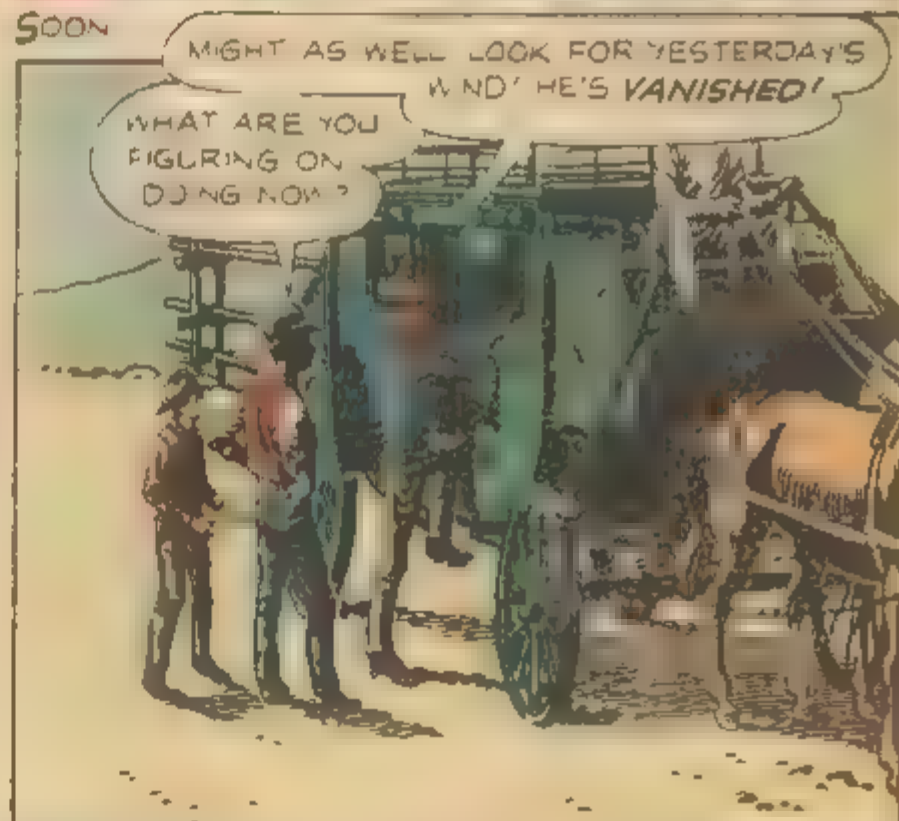
BUT MY JOB IS TO DELIVER CARLOS TO LARAMIE. HE'S THE ONLY WITNESS AGAINST THREE MEMBERS OF A GANG WHO ARE BEING TRIED FOR MURDER

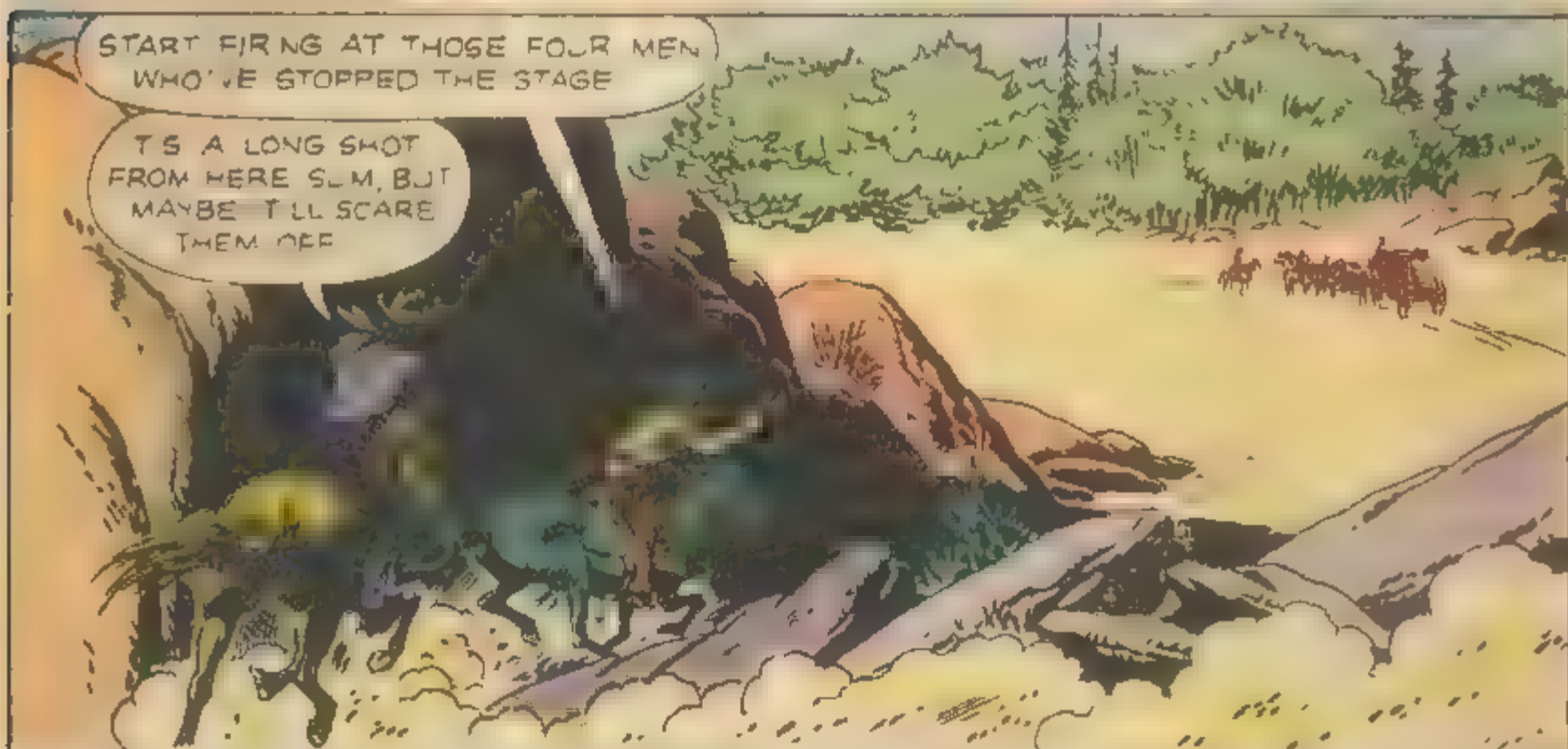
HE'S SAFE ENOUGH HERE

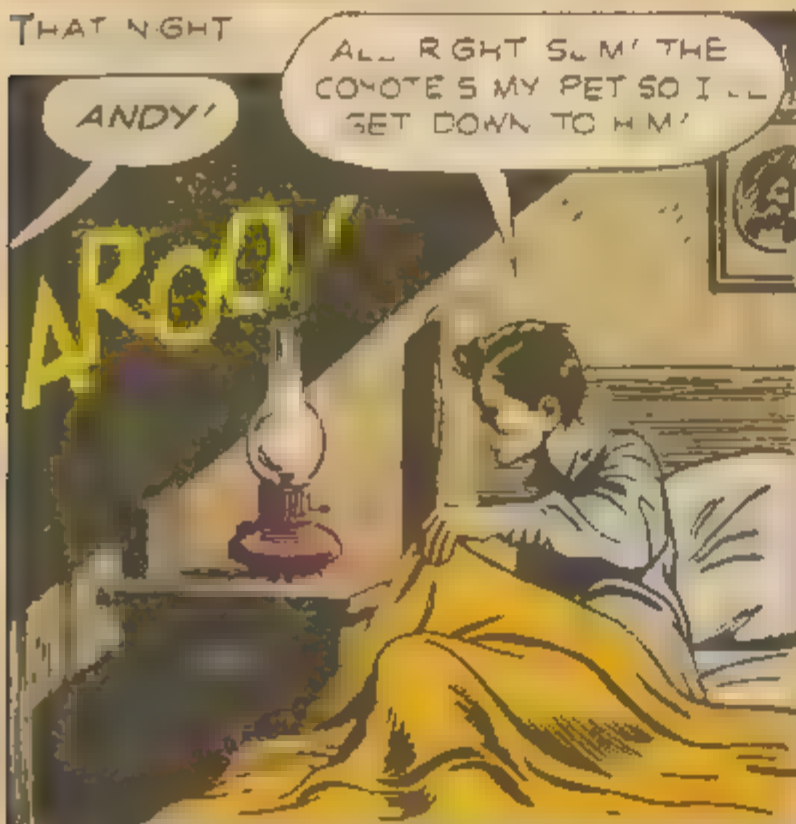


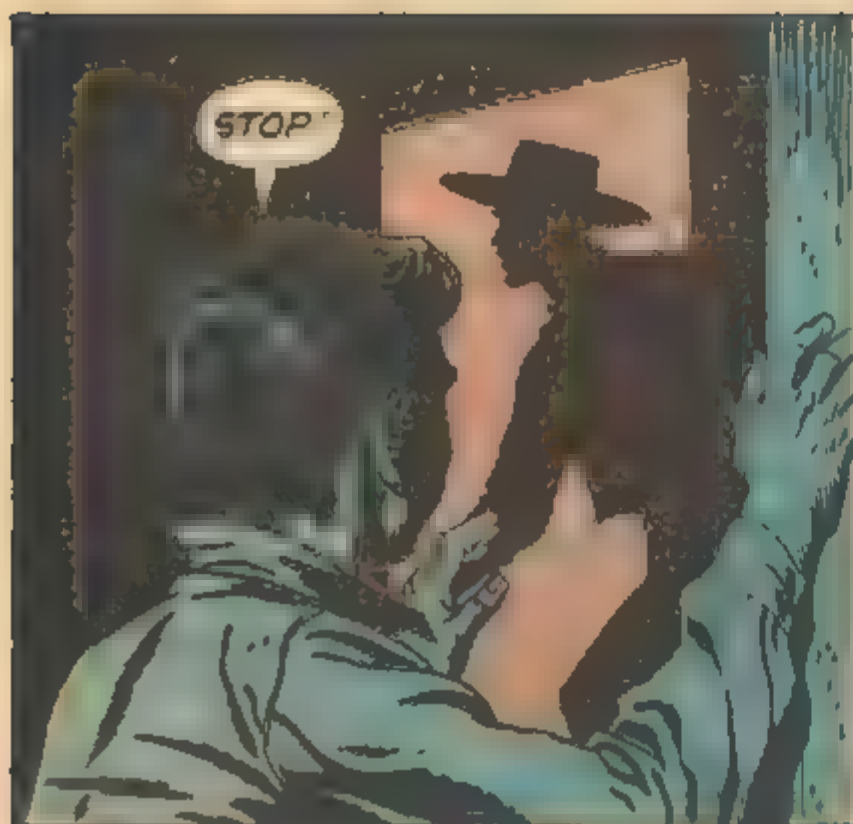
DON'T BE TOO SURE, FOUR MEMBERS OF THAT GANG ARE STILL ON THE DODGE! THEY COULD BE FOLLOWING US AND LOOKING FOR CARLOS.

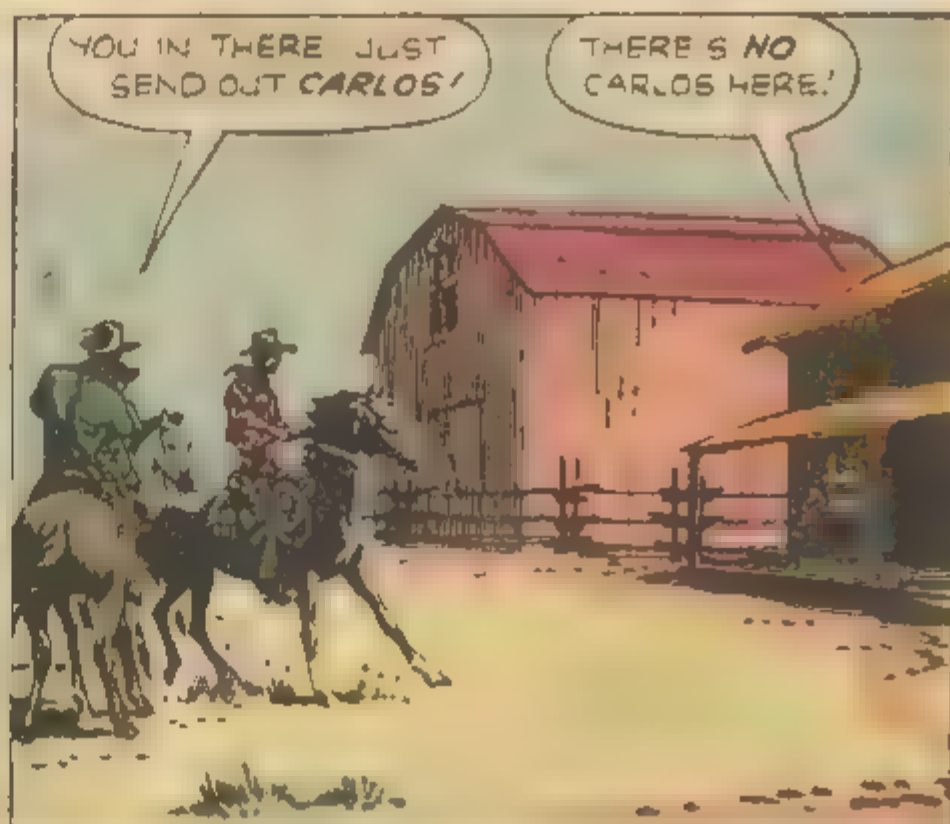












IT APPEARS THEY DON'T BELIEVE YOU SLIM AND YOU HAVE SUCH A *SINCERE* VOICE!



SAVE YOUR LEAD AND LOOK HERE



CARLOS FANCY MEXICAN *SPURS* MUST HAVE MADE THESE DRAG MARKS!



THEN WE'RE WASTING TIME PUMPING BULLETS INTO THE RANCH HOUSE!

BUTCH STAY BEHIND AND KEEP THEM PINNED THERE WHILE WE TRACK DOWN THE MEXICAN!



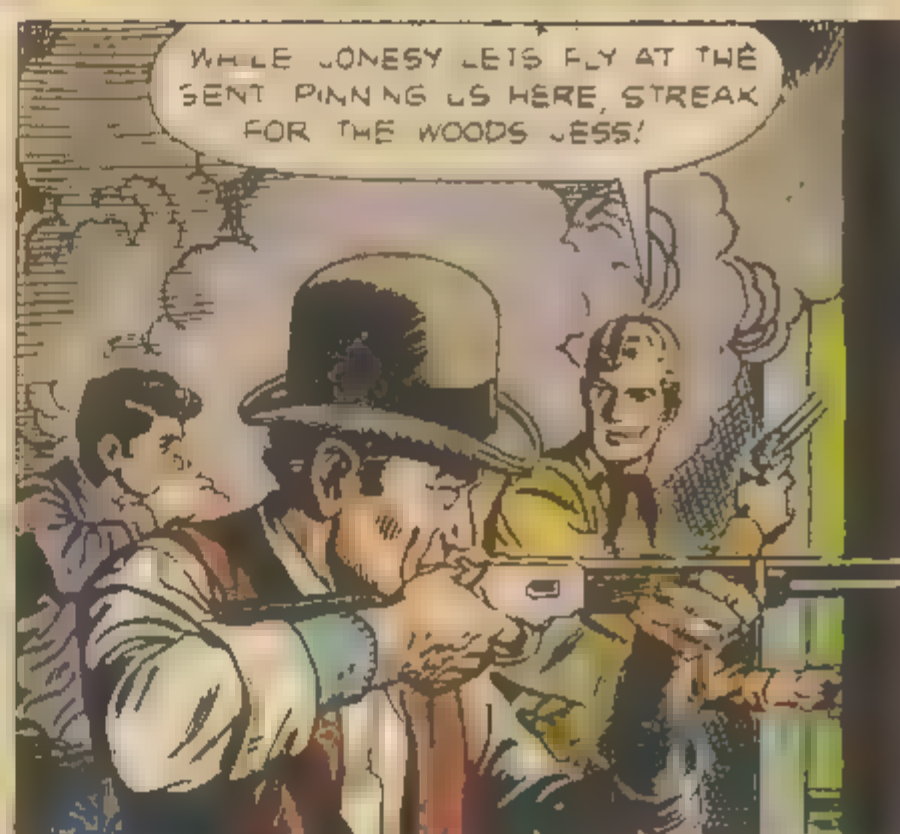
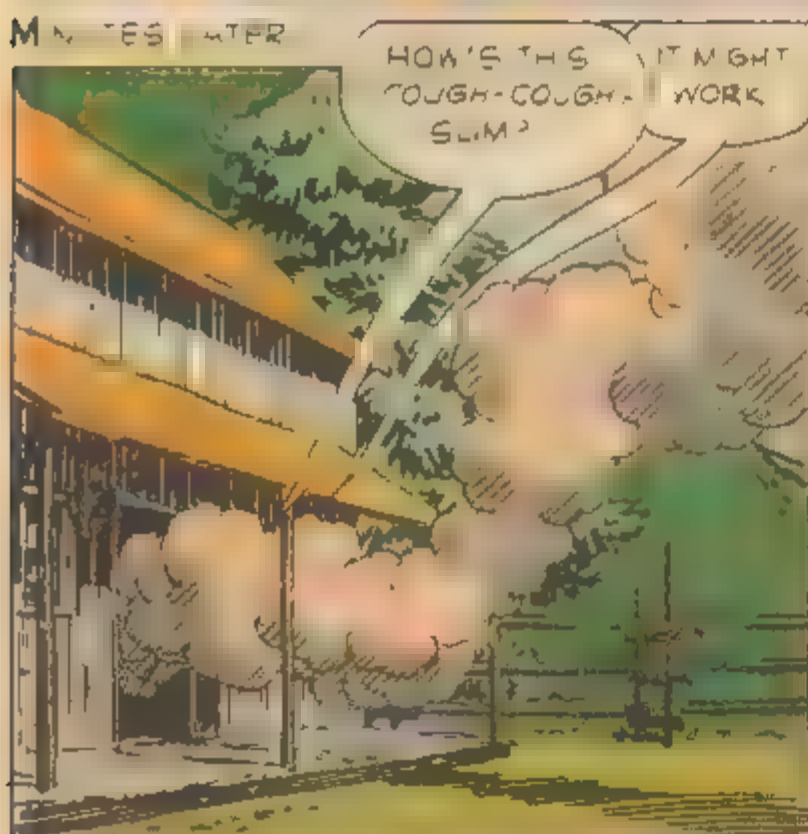
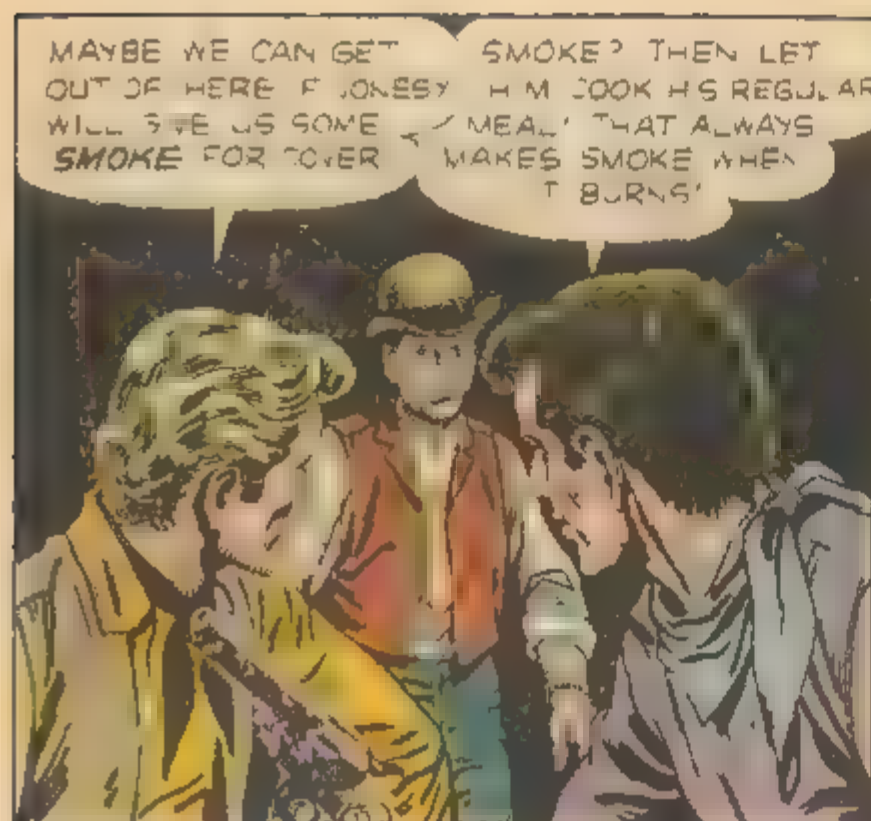
I'LL KEEP EM THERE TILL YOU TELL ME WE'VE GOT OURSELVES A *DEAD* WITNESS

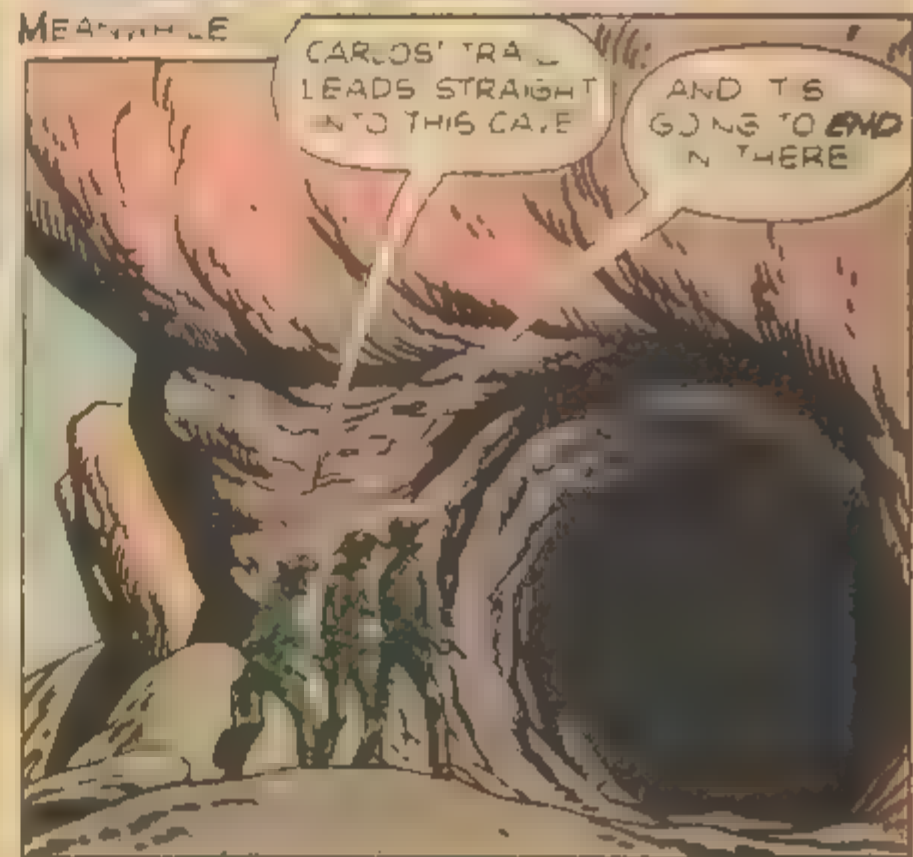


FROM THE WAY THEY'RE LOOKING AT THE GROUND THEY MUST HAVE FOUND CARLOS' TRAIL!

THAT MEANS THEY'LL SOON FIND HIM--AND WE *CAN'T* HELP HIM WHILE WE'RE PINNED HERE







LIGHTING A TORCH THEY ENTER

SURE S
B G

BUT NOT BIG
ENOUGH FOR CARLOS
AND US



SO FAR NOT A
SIGN OF HIM



LISTEN!



SOMETHING MADE A
NOISE DOWN THIS
CORRIDOR COME ON!

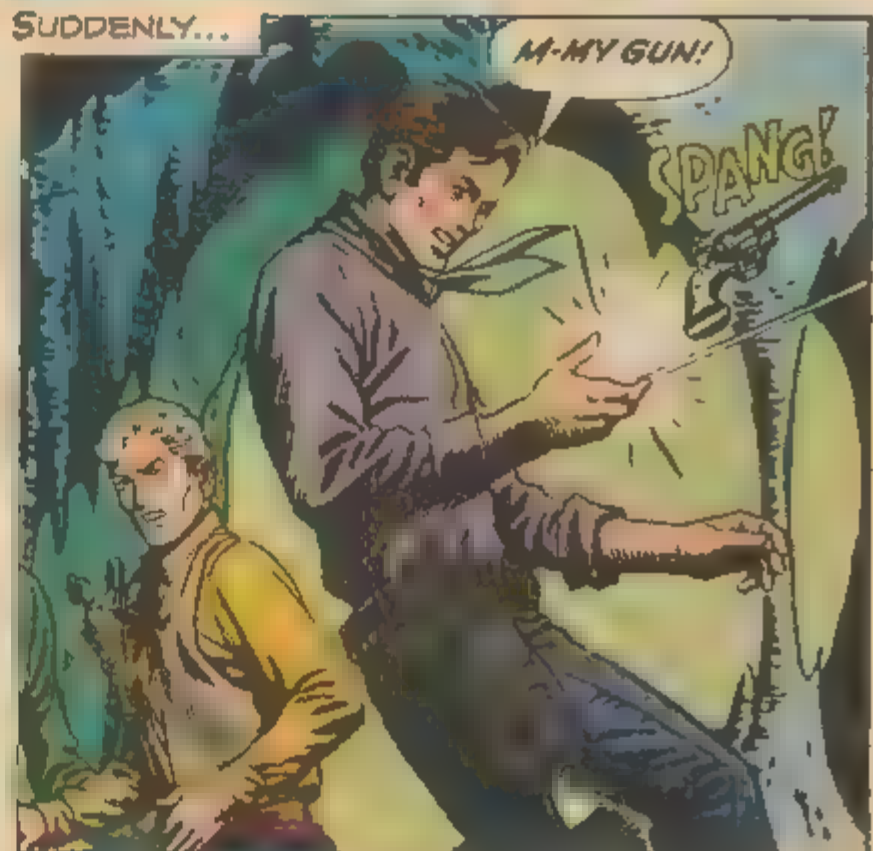
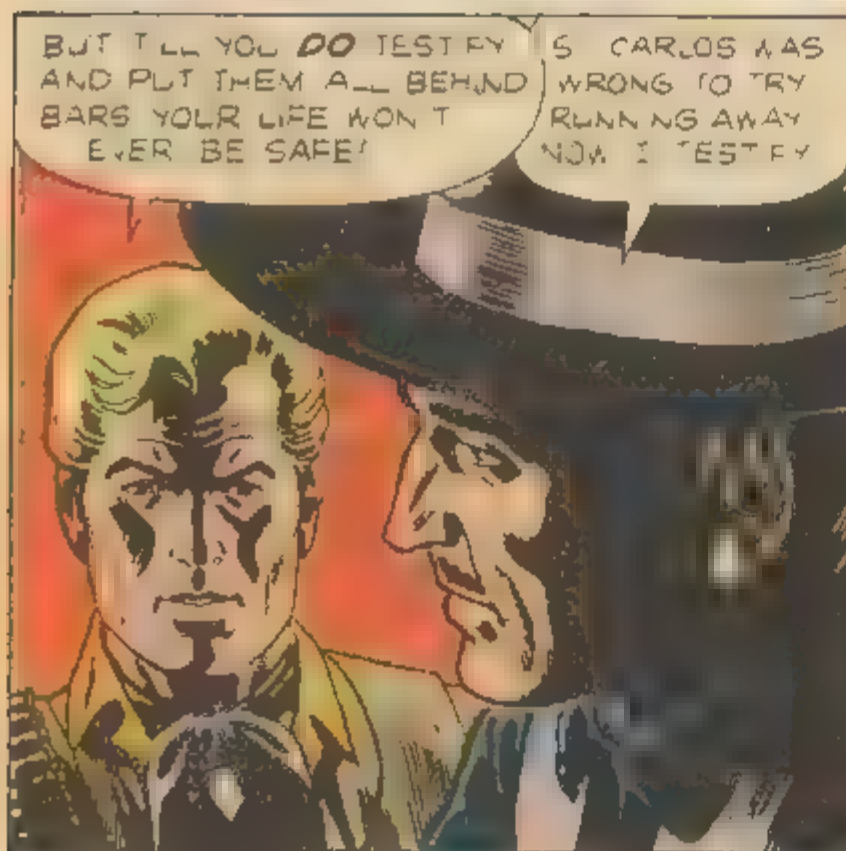


THEY'RE COMING, SLIM!
LUCKY YOU KNEW ABOUT
THE OTHER WAY INTO
THIS CAVE

SAVE YOUR CHEERING
TILL WE HAVE THEM
IN TOW, JESS!













DELL
COMIC

A PLEDGE TO PARENTS

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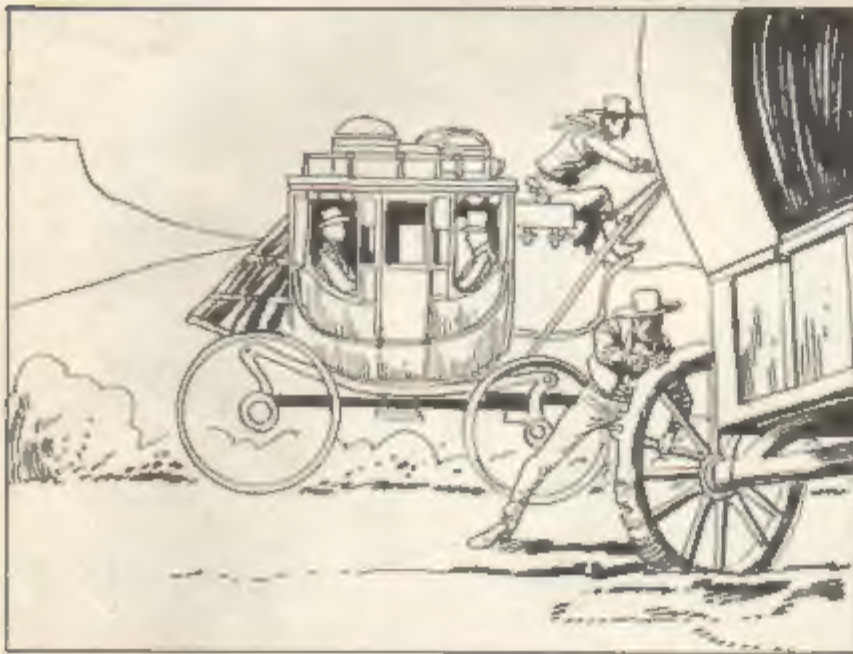
THE STAGE COMES OF AGE



FROM 1700 TO 1850, THE CONESTOGA WAGON WITH ITS RED WHEELS, BLUE BODY AND WHITE COVER, CARRIED SETTLERS WEST.



TWENTY-SIX FEET LONG, HEAVIER THAN TWO TONS, THE CONESTOGA WAGON NEEDED SIX STRONG CONESTOGA HORSES TO PULL ITS BULK.



SINCE THE CONESTOGA WAS TOO HEAVY FOR ROUGH ROADS AND MOUNTAINOUS COUNTRY, PEOPLE PREFERRED STAGECOACHES. THE NEW HAMPSHIRE-MADE CONCORD WAS THE HEIGHT OF LUXURY.



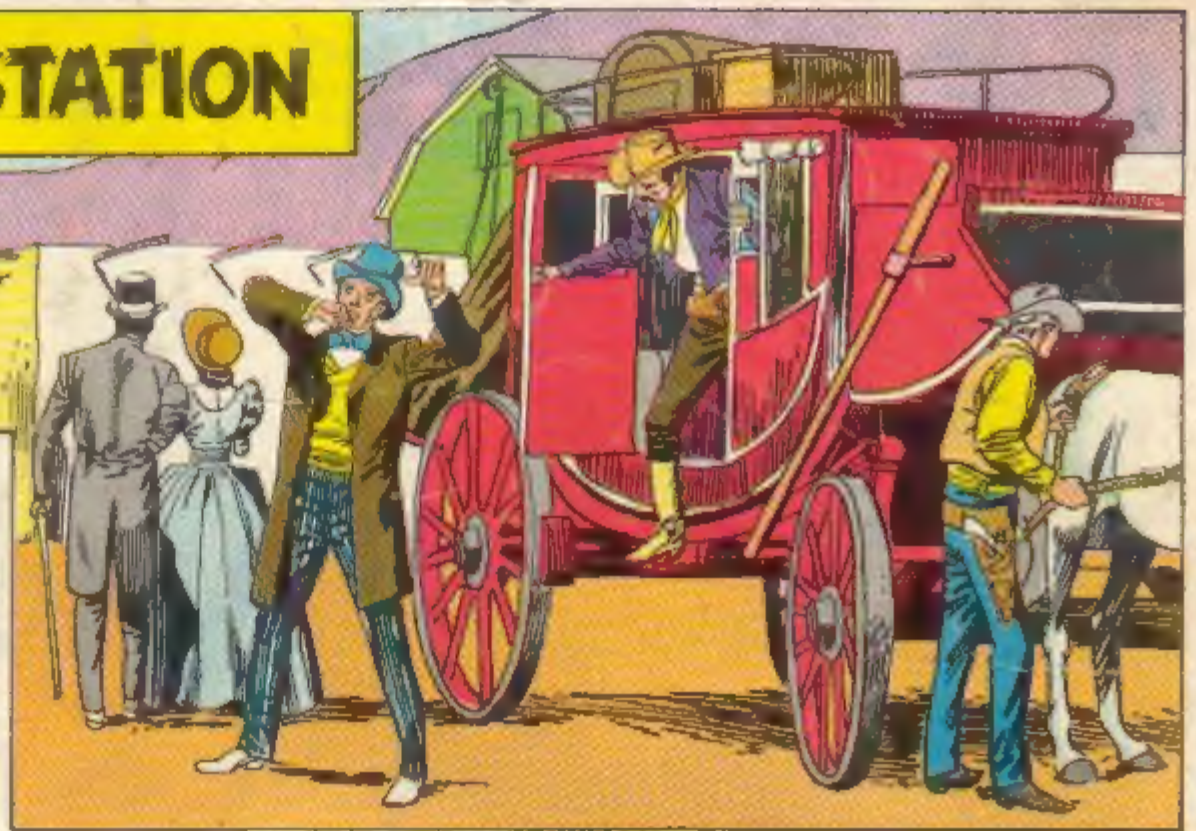
STAGECOACH PRICES STARTED AT ABOUT NINE HUNDRED DOLLARS. GLASS WINDOWS AND FINE PADDED LEATHER SEATS WHICH TURNED INTO BEDS WERE EXTRA COMFORTS AT ADDITIONAL PRICES.



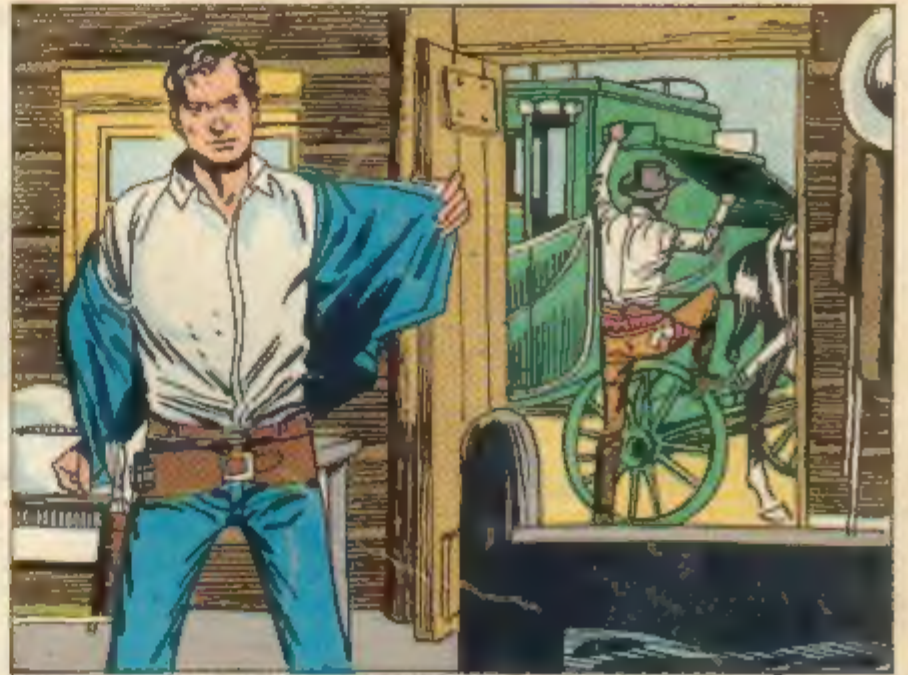
AS MANY AS TWENTY-FOUR PASSENGERS COULD TRAVEL CROSS COUNTRY IN A GAILY DECORATED STAGECOACH DRAWN BY FOUR OR SIX HORSES. BAGGAGE WAS STORED IN THE "BOOT" UNDER THE DRIVER'S BOX, WITH VALUABLES HIDDEN UNDER HIS SEAT. AFTER A ROUGH TRIP WEST BY CONESTOGA, PEOPLE HAPPILY RETURNED EAST IN THE SPRINGY COMFORT OF A STAGECOACH.

THE SWING STATION

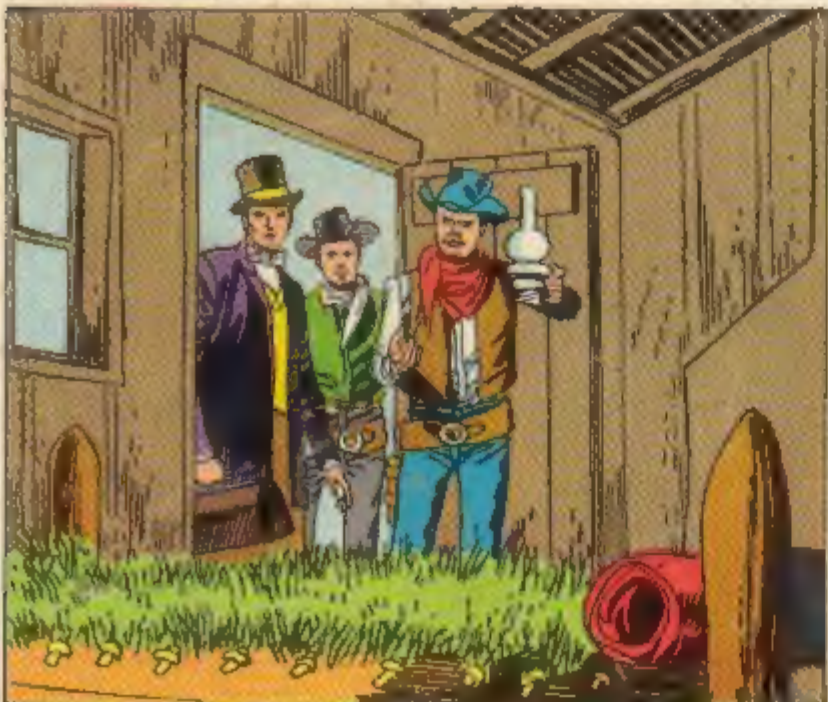
WEARY STAGECOACH PASSENGERS EAGERLY LOOKED FORWARD TO THE SWING STATION STOPS WHERE THEY COULD BUY FOOD, REST AND STRETCH THEIR LEGS. THE BIG STAGECOACHES STOPPED ABOUT SIX TIMES IN THEIR DAILY RUN OF SOME ONE HUNDRED TWENTY MILES. USUALLY THE SWING STATIONS WERE ABOUT TWENTY MILES APART.



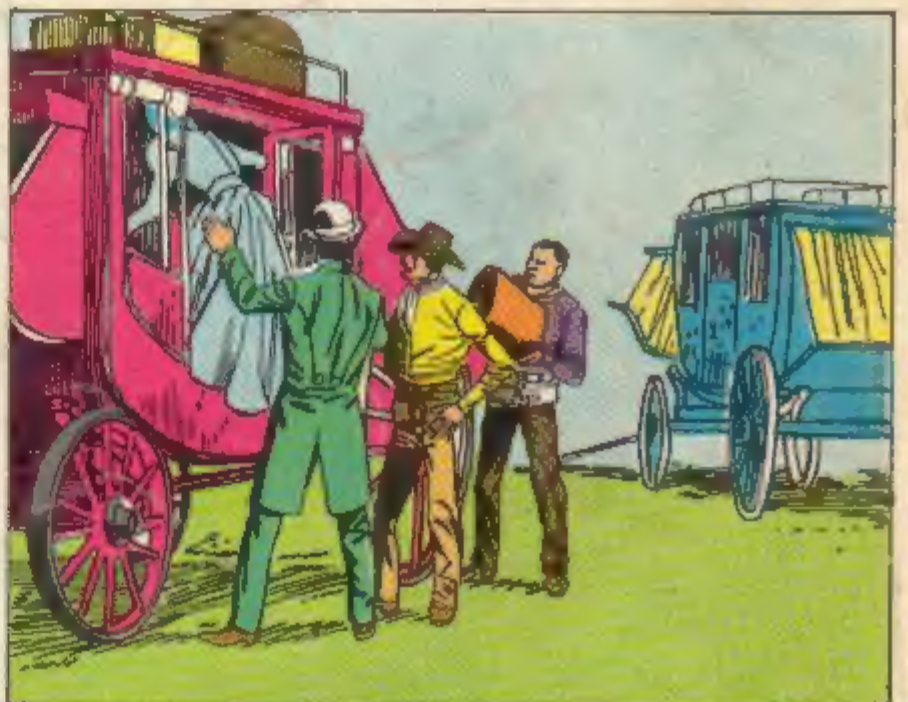
SWING STATIONS WERE BUILT WHERE THEY COULD BE DEFENDED FROM INDIAN ATTACKS, AS MANY OF THE STAGECOACH ROUTES WERE THROUGH DANGEROUS HOSTILE COUNTRY.



THE LOG OR CLAY HUTS CONTAINED EQUIPMENT FOR STAGE REPAIRS, STABLES OF FRESH HORSES AND BUNKS FOR THE TIRED DRIVERS TO REST ON BETWEEN TRIPS.



SOME OF THE STAGE LINES STOPPED FOR THE NIGHT. PASSENGERS RELAXED IN THE SWING STATION ON A WOODEN BUNK OR ROPE STRUNG BEDFRAME COVERED WITH GRASS.



EVERY FIVE HUNDRED MILES COACHES WERE LEFT FOR REPAIRS AND PASSENGERS CHANGED TO A NEW STAGECOACH ON THE HARD TRIP WEST, MADE EASIER BY THE SWING STATIONS.